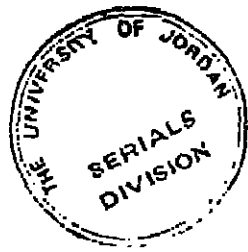


Canada deplores deportation of Palestinians

CANBERRA (J.T.) — Canadian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Gareth Evans, Wednesday deplored Israel's deportation of four Palestinians from the occupied territories. Mr. Evans said that the deportations, which took place on May 19, were the second occasion this year that Israel had expelled Palestinian residents of the territories. The earlier deportations on Jan. 8, represented a resumption of the practice after Israel had refrained from this form of punishment for over a year. "We are aware that Israel has faced a difficult security environment in recent months, but that is not a justification for deportations in breach of international law," Mr. Evans said. "Such deportations represent a continuing violation of human rights in the occupied territories in spite of international criticisms of such action, including the United Nations Security Council."



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King: Bush's peace initiative is acceptable though contingent on implementation of 242

'Arabs should draw lessons from Gulf crisis not seek scapegoats'

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday announced that Jordan had accepted the U.S. peace initiative brought to the region by American Secretary of State James Baker, but he made it clear that acceptance was based on "our conviction that resolution 242 should be implemented, respecting the principle of land for peace."

"Peace which everybody in the area needs after this long conflict must not be approached with the mentality of the businessman who seeks to maximise his profit at the expense of the other party," said King Hussein at a ceremony for the graduation of a new class of senior army officers from the Royal War College.

The King noted that the Arab-Israeli conflict remained the most important regional issue and he said this conflict has become the "oldest" of all international disputes.

"The human rights that have been most manifestly denied are those of the Palestinian people, a part of whom continues to live under occupation," the King said.

The King noted that the facts on the ground are painful and

"we must face them as they are. We cannot continue to close our eyes to the reality of which we are part. We can neither hide it nor make it vanish by raising our voices in protest against it. We must deal with reality with open eyes and open minds in order to achieve a better situation even if it falls short of our hopes. This is a fact of life."

King Hussein stressed that "an in-depth look at the Palestinian problem and at the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict, its scale and dimensions and at the land mass on which it takes place, with its area and resources, would show that peace cannot be achieved merely by signing an accord."

He stressed that peace would need to be protected and developed, "thus acquiring regional and international dimensions."

The King said that an alternative to peace following the outcome of the Gulf crisis would be a continuation of the status quo.

"We must remember that the status quo is not static. It changes constantly and always to the worse. If we were to plot a graph of the lost opportunities for peace we would find that the facts on the ground today are more pain-

ful than they were at any of the opportunities lost in the past," the King noted.

King Hussein listed 13 points which, he said, contained lessons that can be drawn from the Gulf crisis, stressing the fact that the tragedy in the Gulf reflected "the features of a new world order of which we are part even though we are not among its prominent makers."

He stressed that world order was not a club "to be joined by the states that chose to do so by filling an application form, but is a fact of life."

The world order, he said, is so interconnected that no state can afford to separate itself from it.

King Hussein called on the Arabs to interact with the world order from a united and harmonious stands "not as disparate and conflicting states." King Hussein called on Arab states to work together for a new era away from the current tendencies representing the first Jahiliyah (pre-Islamic age of ignorance), when Arabs fought among themselves and allied themselves with either Roman or Persian superpowers of

(Continued on page 4)



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday delivers his speech at the graduation of senior officers from the Royal War College

King, Mubarak exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday exchanged in a telephone conversation with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak views on the latest political developments in the Arab arena and efforts to bring about a comprehensive peaceful settlement to the region. Mr. Mubarak has just ended a tour which took him to several Arab and European countries. This is the first personal contact between the King and Mr. Mubarak since August last year. Last week Mr. Mubarak, while visiting France, sent the King a message related to peace efforts in the region.

Baker blasts Israel over settlement policy

WASHINGTON (AP) Secretary of State James A. Baker blasted Israel's policy Wednesday of establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territories calling in the biggest obstacle to Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Using uncharacteristically harsh language, Baker said the Israeli policy "substantially weakens" his hand in his efforts to set up Middle East peace negotiations.

"Nothing has made my job of trying to find Arab and Palestinian partners for Israel more difficult than being greeted by a new settlement every time I arrive," Baker said in testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Foreign Operations.

His remarks about the prospects for the success of his peace efforts in the region were generally upbeat in his prepared testimony. But he came down hard on Israel at the conclusion of his appearance in response to questions from the subcommittee chairman, Rep. David Obey.

"Every time I have gone to Israel in connection with the peace process on each of my four trips, I have been met with the announcement of new settlement activity," Baker said. "This does violate United States policy."

He said the settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is the first issue that Arab governments and Palestinians raise when he travels to the region on peace missions.

"I don't think there is any bigger obstacle to peace than the settlement activity that continues not only unabated but at an enhanced pace," Baker said.

He said the Israelis have shown no interest in a deal whereby they would suspend settlement activities in the occupied territories in exchange for an end to the Arab state of belligerency against Israel or an end to the Arab economic boycott against Israel.

Baker nonetheless gave an optimistic overall assessment of his peace efforts, saying he believes there is a "real chance" that a peace process can be launched.

On Iraq, Baker reaffirmed his determination never to have normal relations or to relax U.N. sanctions as long as President Saddam Hussein remains in power.

"Left alone, free to reconsolidate his brutal dictatorship and military machine, we know Saddam will act again to brutalize his own people and threaten his neighbours," Baker said.

30 Nahda members arrested in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — Nearly 300 Muslim fundamentalists, including about 100 military personnel, have been arrested for plotting to seize power in Tunisia. Interior Minister Abdullah Kallal said on Wednesday.

He told a news conference those arrested belonged to the illegal fundamentalist movement An-Nahda.

The minister said the military plotters, including several officers with the rank of major, planned to seize power to back up massive street demonstrations by Nahda followers in the coming few weeks.

"We have thwarted this bloody plot," he said.

A clash between fundamentalist students and police in Tunis in which two students died on May 8 was part of "this policy of escalation" by Nahda, he added.

The officers met in the region of Hammamet 60 kilometres south of Tunis on January 6 to plot their coup.

They planned to seize the defence and interior ministries, take over the radio and television stations and security force barracks around the capital before taking over the presidential palace, he said.

Prince Hassan leaves for U.K.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan left Wednesday on a short working visit to the United Kingdom, and was seen off by His Majesty King Hussein and other members of the Royal family. Also present to bid him farewell were the prime minister, cabinet members, chief of the Royal Court and other officials.

Prince Faisal receives tae kwon do team

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the president of the Jordanian tae kwon do federation, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein received Wednesday the Jordanian national tae kwon do team which arrived in Amman airport from Zagreb, Yugoslavia, after winning the second place in the 5th tae kwon do World Cup Championship. Members of the Jordanian team won one gold medal and four bronzes in the championship in which teams representing 16 countries took part. Several Jordanian officials were at the airport to receive the Jordanian team.

PLO officer killed on road to Baghdad

AMMAN (AP) — Brig. Gen. Abdullah Abdul Hamid Labib, a member of the PLO high military council and the Fatah Revolution Council, died Wednesday after his car overturned in Iraq en route to Baghdad, a PLO spokesman said.

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India mourns Gandhi, Congress elects widow to lead party

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — While India's dominant Congress Party on Wednesday elected Rajiv Gandhi's widow to lead the party, apparently hoping to reap voter sympathy after the assassination of the former prime minister, the country began a week of mourning for the former prime minister, whose assassination touched off rioting and forced postponement of the bloodiest election since independence.

"It is a serious threat to democracy. It is a shame for us," said Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, whose government placed police and troops on the highest level of alert.

Rajiv Gandhi's death in a bomb blast Tuesday touched off rioting, forced postponement of the bloodiest election since independence and left the party without a clear leader.

The Gandhi family dynasty has dominated Indian politics for three generations — 37 of its 43 years as an independent nation. Polls had predicted the Congress Party would win the most seats in

the current parliamentary election, setting up Rajiv Gandhi's return to the prime minister's post.

With her intra-party election, the politically inexperienced Sonia Gandhi is in line for the top post. But in a possible sign she would be little more than a

figurehead, her choice was announced before she was informed, party leaders said. Her response was not immediately known.

The decision could not immediately be conveyed to Mrs.

(Continued on page 4)

King condoles Indian president

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable of condolences to the President of India Ramaswami Venkatarman on the passing of the former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. In his cable the King said:

"I was deeply aggrieved by the shocking news of the assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. This tragedy is mourned far beyond the boundaries of your great nation because Mr. Gandhi was a world statesman of rare qualities, who was devoted to the noble principles of democracy, national unity, and peaceful coexistence under the rule of law, on which the modern state of India arose. On this sad occasion the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan join me in sending our heartfelt condolences to your excellency and to the government and people of India. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Madar Badran sent a cable of condolences to his Indian counterpart Chandra Shekhar expressing deep sadness and shock over the assassination of Gandhi. Badran said that Gandhi would be remembered as one of the prominent leaders of India who dedicated his life to serving his nation."

Syria, Lebanon sign brotherhood treaty

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The presidents of Syria and Lebanon on Wednesday signed a broad cooperation treaty which some Lebanese Christians fear would lead to the annexation of their fractured country by its powerful neighbour.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi led a large delegation of government officials to the ceremony at the new, hilltop Ash Shaab presidential palace.

President Hafez Assad and Hrawi signed the document immediately after the Lebanese delegation arrived by road from Beirut in the early afternoon.

During the ceremony, Assad told Hrawi the treaty ushered a new "era of cooperation and brotherhood" between the two countries.

"What is between Syria and Lebanon is God made," he said. "What is good for Lebanon is good for Syria and security and prosperity in one of the two countries will reflect on the other."

As the delegation was on its way to the Syrian capital, Pa-

riarch Nasrallah Sfeir, spiritual leader of the Maronites, the country's largest Christian sect, issued a statement openly rejecting the treaty.

Two Maronite members of the cabinet, Roger Deeb and George Saade, declined to join the delegation that headed for the Syrian capital.

Prime Minister Omar Karami, a Sunni Muslim, the other ministers in his government, and parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini, a Shiite Muslim attended the signing ceremony.

The pact is to be submitted to the Syrian and Lebanese parliaments before it takes effect. Dates for the sessions have not been set, but neither house is expected to challenge the pact.

In his statement broadcast by Beirut radio stations, Sfeir said Lebanon "is in no position to conclude treaties before liberating its land, deploying its army across the country and restoring state authority."

He said the so-called treaty of

(Continued on page 5)

Controversial measures by education minister spark unprecedented debate

Thousands of parents mobilise effort to stem what they see as drive to 'politicise' process

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In an unprecedented bid to prevent what they call the "politicisation" of education "and protect freedom of choice for parents and students," thousands of individual parents and concerned citizens as well as many organisations and groups have come together to start a campaign. The aim is to put pressure on the government to rescind a number of controversial decisions taken recently by Minister of Education Abdullah Akaileh regarding, among others, ministry policies and appointments, the running of private schools and mixing between the sexes at school age.

A petition circulating in Amman for the past several days signed by several thousand parents and concerned citizens, says "the series of administrative and educational decisions by the ministry exposes the educational process to imbalance."

Addressed to the prime minister, the petition adds that the "educational decision cannot be a unilateral action; it is the decision of the whole society which agrees on its philosophy and drafts its law and then paves the road for it."

The signatories are calling on the prime minister and his government to "protect the educational process from the dangers affecting it so that it would continue in its path of reform and development and to ensure a bright future for coming generations."

Well over 3,000 signatures had been collected until yesterday, according to campaign activists and the figure is likely to reach 5,000 by the time representatives of the parents meet the prime minister, "hopefully sometime next week."

A separate committee of parents-teachers associations (PTAs) from different schools was also formed Sunday to follow up on the minister's

directives, assess them and lobby against them if they fall within "politicising" the schools.

The PTA committee's first action was to draft a letter to the prime minister, without signatures from the public. However, a meeting between the committee that drafted the circulating petition and the PTA panel members is expected to result in merging the two efforts and presenting both the letter and the petition to the prime minister in one meeting. A source working with one of the lobby groups said that a meeting later this week will consolidate the efforts of both groups.

The idea of the first petition was sparked by an April 30 decision by Minister Akaileh decreeing that fathers cannot attend certain activities of their daughters at school. But the move had been precipitated weeks earlier by a string of measures that the minister, who is a member of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, the



Abdullah Akaileh

junior partner in Mr. Mudar Badran's government, took to "Islamise" education. These measures included introducing the "Victory Prayer," which children had to recite at their schools every morning. The prayer condemns Western and Zionist influence and calls upon God

(Continued on page 5)

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Changes in the Jordanian education system that have been put into effect or intended by the minister of education, Dr. Abdullah Akaileh, have created a storm of controversy among advocates and opponents of the moves.

While public reaction has so far been confined to concerned parents and individual citizens who are mainly secular and affluent, a larger picture of the reaction to the controversy is emerging through parliamentary response on the issue.

A canvass poll of members of parliament's reaction to Dr. Akaileh's moves shows opinion divided along ideological and party lines that largely reflect the positions of various groupings in the Lower House of Parliament.

Islamic groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood, to which Dr. Akaileh belongs, predict-

ably favour the aims of the minister's decisions and policies, mainly those directed at segregation of sexes in basic and higher education and enforcing Islamic moral ethics in educational institutions as such.

The more secular groups in parliament, however, are largely opposed to the "Islamisation" or "politicisation" of the educational system, although they differ in opinion on the significance of the minister's steps towards this end so far.

The seculars, who are divided into "national", "liberal" and "democratic" blocs, comprising about 45 deputies, all feel that segregation should be a matter of choice by students and parents rather than a state imposed regulation.

Salt deputy Abdullah Nsour, who is spokesman of the 15-member "National Bloc," says he has "seen no sign yet" that the minister of education was attempting to ban co-education

in the Kingdom. "If he does we will have to oppose such a move," Dr. Nsour, a former minister of higher education, says. "How can we react to something that has not yet happened? Let us wait and see and then react if changes are made, which I doubt."

Other members of the National Bloc are more forthcoming in their rejection of what they see as government interference in education.

"It is not up to the government to tell people what kind of schools to send their children to," says Mr. Suleiman Arar, a Maan deputy and former speaker of the House. Mr. Arar maintains that he opposes government interference in "personal" matters such as choice of education and says that he would fight for it on the parliament floor.

Another prominent member of the National Bloc, former Minister of Tourism Abdul

(Continued on page 5)

Ethiopian rebels, pressing toward capital, reject cease-fire call and new president

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Rebels rejected a call for a cease-fire from Ethiopia's acting president and pressed to within 55 kilometres of the capital Wednesday.

Residents told of seeing and hearing government tanks, armoured personnel carriers and trucks moving through Addis Ababa before dawn, apparently heading west to bolster the city's outer defenses.

Some residents also told of seeing soldiers straggling into the capital from the west, but this could not be confirmed and accounts of their numbers varied widely.

The capital remained tense but quiet, with shoppers in the streets and businesses open as usual.

In a clandestine radio broadcast, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) rejected the cease-fire proposal and the new interim president, Lt. Gen. Tesfaye Gebre-Kidan, saying he was "part and parcel" of the former regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Mengistu, one of Africa's most ruthless leaders, resigned the presidency Tuesday and fled to Zimbabwe.

The rebel radio said Tesfaye had been instrumental in putting down a military coup against Mengistu in May 1989. Four generals believed to have helped organise the failed effort were captured and killed, while 14 others were court-martialed.

Tesfaye, a former defense minister, is Ethiopia's most senior active military officer.

In a noon broadcast, the clandestine EPRDF radio appealed to the Joint Relief Partnership (JRP) to resume deliveries of food and other supplies from Assab to an estimated 7 million famine victims. The deliveries were forced to stop last weekend when fighting broke out along the main highway from Addis Ababa to Assab, the last Red Sea port in government hands.

The JRP is a church coalition that coordinates distribution of relief supplies from governments and private donors in Europe, the United States and elsewhere.

"We will provide every protection," the rebel broadcast said. It appealed to the Ethiopian air force not to bomb food convoys.

In the continuing fighting, the EPRDF said it had killed 5,600 government troops in advancing to Addis Ababa, 55 kilometres

west of Addis Ababa. That was 20 kilometres closer than their last reported position on the important road leading from the capital to the country's west-central provinces.

They said a sister rebel organisation, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, had taken the town of Dekemhare, 40 kilometres south of Asmara, the capital of Ethiopia's north-eastern province, Eritrea.

Western military observers said that would put the Eritrean rebels in position to close Asmara's airport, several kilometres south of the besieged city.

For nearly a year Asmara's more than 1 million civilians and the estimated 100,000 government soldiers garrisoned there have been solely dependent on an airlift of relief supplies.

The rebels now control roughly the northern third of the country with the bulk of their conquest coming since late February.

The rebel broadcast made no mention of fighting near Dessalegn along the strategic road leading north from the capital to Assab, the only remaining Red Sea port still in government hands.

The new government has called for an immediate cease-fire and

said it would go to U.S.-brokered peace talks scheduled in London on Monday prepared to discuss an interim government representing all parties in Ethiopia.

The rebels have said they intend to go to the London talks and would like to see a peaceful end to the conflict. But they have said their fighting will not stop until a transitional government was formed.

Asefa Mamo, an EPRDF spokesman in London, said Mengistu's departure was simply the removal of "one evil person" and did not change the nature of Ethiopia's leadership.

Residents of Addis Ababa — its population almost doubled to 3 million in recent years by refugees from the war zones — appeared to take the news of Mengistu's resignation calmly.

Although he was widely despised, there were no outward displays of jubilation at his departure.

Mengistu's resignation was welcomed by the United States and Britain, which were among many Western nations quietly urging Mengistu's departure to facilitate the peace talks.

The rebels had made his ouster a virtual pre-condition for an end to years of hostilities.

Walesa to cancel arms deal with Syria

TEL AVIV (AP) — Poland's President Lech Walesa has promised Israel to cancel a planned sale of advanced tanks to the Jewish state's most formidable enemy, Syria, officials said Wednesday.

Walesa, the first Polish head of state to visit Israel, made the pledge Tuesday during a meeting with Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens in Jerusalem.

Arens, speaking on Israel Radio, said he admired the decision, given Poland's economic troubles. "I presume this wasn't an easy decision for Poland," he said.

"But President Walesa said they simply would stand by the principle that they will not sell weapons to enemies of the state of Israel," Arens added.

Israeli newspapers said the contemplated deal involved Soviet-made tanks, but gave no further details. Arens' spokesman Danny Naveh also declined to elaborate, confirming only that Poland had agreed to cancel the deal.

Walesa's promise coincided with mounting concern in Israel over Syria's extended influence in Lebanon, as symbolised by a new Syrian-Lebanese cooperation treaty signed in Damascus Wednesday.

Walesa, 47, arrived in Israel Monday for a four-day visit.

The Polish leader, a Roman Catholic who gained fame as the leader of the anti-Communist solidarity movement, visited Christian holy sites in Galilee Wednesday.

A special mass was said in his honour at the Mount of the Beatitudes, the site of Jesus' sermon on the mount, which overlooks the Sea of Galilee, Israel Radio said.

While in Galilee Wednesday, Walesa also will have lunch at a collective farm founded by Holocaust survivors, called Lohamei Hagetaot, which is Hebrew for "ghetto fighters."

Christian opposition to treaty with Syria grows

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — President Elias Hrawi led a long line of government officials to Damascus Wednesday to sign a broad cooperation treaty with Syria, some Christians fear would lead to the annexation of Lebanon.

Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, spiritual leader of the Maronites, the country's largest Christian sect, openly opposed the treaty in a statement issued Wednesday.

Two Maronite members of the cabinet, Roger Deeb and Georges Saade, declined to join the delegation that headed for the Syrian capital.

Prime Minister Omar Karami, a Sunni Muslim, and his other ministers, including some Christians, went with Hrawi, a Maronite.

Hrawi and President Hafez Assad were to sign the pact at a ceremony later Wednesday, and then submit it to their respective parliaments for ratification.

Neither house is expected to challenge the treaty.

In his statement broadcast by

radio stations, Sfeir said Lebanon "is in no position to conclude treaties before liberating its land, deploying its army across the country and restoring state authority."

He said the so-called treaty of brotherhood, cooperation and coordination was "imposed by one side on the other like any accord between two unequal states."

He also charged that the pact violates the national covenant, an unwritten Muslim-Christian accord reached in 1943 when France agreed to grant Lebanon independence.

Under the covenant the Muslims, then a minority, dropped their demand for merger with Syria and France ended some of the privileges the Christians enjoyed. Muslims, however, now make up 55 per cent of the 4 million population.

Sources close to Sfeir said the patriarch planned to meet with the U.S. and French ambassadors, Ryan Crocker and Rene

Ala to explain Christian fears. The controversial treaty call for tight coordination and cooperation between Syria and Lebanon in the fields of security, foreign policy, economy, trade and culture.

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon with 40,000 troops deployed in the country under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate. The treaty, Christians maintain, would further strengthen Syria's hold on their country.

Israel has said the treaty was tantamount to de facto occupation of Lebanon. Israeli officials said the treaty gives the Jewish state more reason to maintain its occupation of a southern border strip.

Israel maintains about 1,000 troops in the 1,100-square-kilometre security zone which it carved out in 1985 after ending a three-year occupation of the region.

The strip serves as a buffer against cross-border guerrilla infiltrations.

UNRWA protests mistreatment of staff, Palestinians by Israeli armed forces

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency has made a formal protest to the Israeli authorities in the occupied Gaza Strip over two incidents in which two UNRWA international staff members were struck and abused by Israeli border police.

The incidents occurred last Friday (17 May) in the Shaboura quarter of Gaza's Rafah refugee camp when UNRWA staff attempted to intervene with Israeli border police contingents who were mistreating camp residents.

In the first incident, an UNRWA international staff member was insulted and pushed and his Palestinian assistant was slapped in the face and briefly detained in a military vehicle.

A border guard later pushed the international staff member and struck him in the mouth.

The second incident occurred later the same day when another UNRWA international staff member approached a group of border police who were beating three refugees. A border police officer insulted the UNRWA staff member and some of the border guards prodded her with their rifles.

In a written protest to the Israeli civil administration in Gaza, UNRWA has said that it is "very concerned about the increasing number of assaults on its staff by members of the border police." The agency said such actions were incompatible with Israel's obligations to facilitate UNRWA's tasks.

UNRWA has asked for an investigation to be carried out into the latest incidents.

In another development, UNRWA said it was ready to offer assistance to four Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, including two UNRWA staff members, who were expelled to Lebanon by the Israeli authorities on Saturday.

UNRWA has deplored the expulsions of the four men, who are all Palestine refugees registered with the agency. Two of them, Hashem Mohammad Dahlan and Jamal Abu Habil, are UNRWA employees.

UNRWA's Field Office in Lebanon is being asked to assist the two staff members as needed and to do what it can for the other two men. The four were handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Beqaa Valley, east of Beirut, on Saturday after being expelled by the Israeli army.

UNRWA has reiterated its regret that the Israeli authorities have continued their policy of expelling Palestinians from the occupied territory, which it considers a violation of international conventions. As a humanitarian agency responsible for the welfare of the Palestine refugees, UNRWA said it would do what it could to assist the men and their families.

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Israeli official welcomes Shiite prisoner offer

RASHAYA, Lebanon (AP) — Israel Wednesday welcomed an offer from a ranking Shiite Muslim cleric for a comprehensive prisoner swap that could also free Western hostages.

Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israel's policy in Lebanon, said the offer by Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddine was an "encouraging step in the right direction."

Shamseddine, in an interview May 13, said: "Let us work out an ethical, humanitarian package deal through the International Committee of the Red Cross to free them all."

Shamseddine, who heads the Shiite Islamic Council in Lebanon, stressed that "I am positive it (the deal) will bring about the release of the Western hostages."

Seven Israeli servicemen have been missing in Lebanon since Israel's 1982 invasion of its Arab neighbour. They are believed held by Shiite factions, including the pro-Iranian Hizbollah, Palestinian guerrilla groups and Syria.

At least one of the Israeli servicemen has been reported killed.

Lubrani made his remarks in

an interview with the Middle East Television, the station of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA).

The television station is based in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone," a strip patrolled by Israeli troops and SLA militiamen in South Lebanon.

Lubrani said: "Three of the missing Israeli servicemen in Lebanon are held by Iran or Hizbollah."

"Israel has made it clear its missing servicemen, including the three, should be part of any deal in line with which Lebanese prisoners held by Israel are to be released," he said.

The reference appeared to be in response to calls by Hizbollah and hostage holders for the release of Hizbollah cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid from Israel, a step that could facilitate the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon.

In addition to Obeid, the kidnappers want the estimated 300 mostly Shiite detainees released from a prison controlled by the South Lebanese Army in the security zone town of Kfayim.

In all 13 Westerners, including six Americans, are missing in Lebanon and believed held mainly by Hizbollah-affiliated factions. The other Westerners are four Britons, two Germans and an Italian.

American journalist Terry Anderson, 43, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, is the longest-held foreign captive. He was kidnapped March 16, 1985.

Obeid was kidnapped by Israeli paratroopers from his village of Jibsheh in South Lebanon in July 1989.

Israel and South Lebanon Army do not permit Red Cross representatives to visit detainees at Kfayim.

Lubrani's statement came one day after Hezbollah announced the election of a new leadership headed by Sheikh Abbas Musawi. It was not known if the timing of Lubrani's interview was connected to the development.

Musawi, a black-turbaned cleric, was elected by a Hizbollah congress to replace Sheikh Subhi Tufaili as secretary-general of the party.

Before assuming the party's leadership, Musawi was in charge of the Islamic resistance, the Hizbollah department in charge of carrying out guerrilla attacks against Israel.

It could not be determined what impact Musawi's election would have on the plight of the Western hostages.

His first function as Hizbollah leader was a meeting late Tuesday in Beirut with an Iranian parliamentary delegation visiting Lebanon to enlist support for a congress in Tehran in support of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

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As time goes by, U.S.-led victory in war looks hollow

By Bernd Debusmann
Renter

WASHINGTON — In the flush of victory in the Gulf war, everything seemed possible. A new government in Iraq, peace and prosperity in the Middle East, and a new improved world order.

But less than three months after President George Bush spelled out his hopes for a post-war world to a joint session of Congress, the new order of things in the Middle East looks little changed from the old.

President Saddam Hussein still rules Iraq, Arabs and Israelis still show no willingness to talk to each other and make peace. Washington's conservative allies in the Gulf still shun off demands for political reforms. Authoritarian rule still predominates in the Arab World.

As time goes by, the Bush administration is being confronted with difficult questions: What did the Gulf war achieve? What did Bush win? Was it worth it?

The resounding U.S.-led victory over Iraq expelled Iraqi armies from Kuwait, destroyed Iraq's capacity to wage war on her neighbours, and ended her control over 20 per cent of the world's oil supplies.

"Apart from that, one can see no achievement at all," said Mr. Laurie Mylroie, a Harvard University expert on Iraq. "The Middle East does not look an awful lot different now than it did before."

According to Mr. Rashid Khalidi of Chicago University's Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, "it is easier to draw up the negatives than the positives on a preliminary balance sheet."

On the plus side, he said, President Saddam had been removed as a threat to his neighbours. On the minus side, however, the war has created instability and disrupted the regional power balance, threatening the area in different but no less dangerous ways.

Other negatives: The large-scale killing of Kurdish and

Shi'ite Muslim civilians as the Iraqi army crushed twin uprisings against President Saddam's rule practically under the eyes of the victorious U.S. military.

On the Arab-Israeli front, Mr. Bush raised high hopes that his administration might succeed where others failed. "It should be plain to all parties that peacekeeping in the Middle East requires compromise," he said.

"The time has come to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict," he said.

Since then, Secretary of State James Baker has made four shuttle trips to the Middle East to find that contrary to American assumptions, the Gulf war failed to change Arab and Israeli attitudes.

While Mr. Baker made progress on procedure in trying to organise a regional peace conference, neither Arabs nor Israelis budged on the substance of the issues that stand in the way of settling the Middle East conflict.

These include Israel's refusal to give up, in return for peace, land it seized in Arab-Israeli wars.

To drive home the point that it had no intention of compromising on that issue, Israel established new settlements in the occupied West Bank on the eve of Mr. Baker's arrival on one of his trips.

"The administration assumed that the main players in the Middle East would be more flexible out of gratitude for removing the Iraqi threat," said a European diplomat. "There is no such thing as gratitude in that region."

Even Kuwait, whose super-rich ruling family has been restored thanks to the United States, shows little apparent willingness to make concessions to American sensitivities.

While the Gulf war was not about democracy, there is growing public indignation in the United States over the Kuwaiti rulers' post-war tendency to place their personal comfort ahead of rebuilding their country.

"Did we fight this war so that the emir (of Kuwait) could sit on a golden toilet seat?" asked an angry participant in a recent phone-in radio programme.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Coalition governments reopen Baghdad embassies

BAGHDAD (R) — Some countries in the U.S.-led coalition that evicted Iraq from Kuwait have reopened their embassies in Baghdad and more were expected to follow soon, an Iraqi newspaper said Tuesday. The government daily Al Jumhuriyah said they included Oman, Pakistan and Morocco three countries that sent troops to join the allies in the Gulf war that ended in February. It did not say when they resumed their diplomatic activity. Oman, a member in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that includes Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, has generally taken a softer line during the Gulf crisis. Morocco and Pakistan have said they sent troops to defend Saudi Arabia. Most countries, except for the Soviet Union and other East European countries, pulled out of Iraq after Baghdad ignored a January 15 deadline set by the United States to withdraw from Kuwait. The war began on January 17. Al Jumhuriyah said envoys from Canada, Australia, Philippines, Brazil, Nigeria and Senegal were in Baghdad to reopen their embassies. The United States is represented by an interests' section at the Polish embassy, while the Soviet embassy looks after British and French interests.

Hardline students evicted from headquarters

TEHRAN (R) — Police evicted hardline Muslim students from their headquarters near Tehran University after breaking down the door in the early hours of the morning, newspapers said Wednesday. About 400 demonstrators marched through the university campus after Tuesday's raid, the newspaper Jomhuri Eslami said. They chanted "death to American-style Islam" — a phrase sometimes used to attack the moderate wing of Iran's ruling clergy. The students said the police action was politically motivated. They rejected a judicial official's explanation that the police had just carried out a long-standing eviction order. A spokesman for the hardline group told Jomhuri Eslami that police broke down the door to their office near the campus in central Tehran at 2.30 a.m., held six students for several hours, and seized documents. The paper quoted the head of a law college run by the judiciary as saying the college bought the four-storey building in 1985 and an eviction order for the first floor occupied by the students was issued long ago. The group, called the Bureau for Consolidation of Unity of Islamic Societies of University Students, is part of a hardline alliance which often opposes President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's policies.

Yemen celebrates 1 year of unity

SANAA (R) — Tens of thousands of cheering Yemenis, waving flags and traditional daggers, crowded into the capital's stadium on Wednesday to celebrate one year of unity between the conservative north and socialist south.

The festive mood gave no sign of the hardships the newly united Yemen — which became the Arabian peninsula's poorest and most populous state in May 1990 — has endured since its government showed sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh watched the ceremonies from a balcony seated beside Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, the only Arab leader to attend the anniversary.

Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, France, India, Hungary and South Korea sent senior officials. Yemeni youths acted out scenes from their country's history. They bowed their heads and bent their backs to depict life under the rule of the Zaydi imams and British colonialists who rule north and south respectively during the first half of the century.

OBITUARY

Al Aqsa University services establishment mourns leader

RAJIV GANDHI

the former Indian prime minister who passed away Monday and offers its condolences to the Indian Embassy in Jordan and to the people and government of friendly India.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Cartoons
18:25 News in French
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
21:00 Day By Day
21:10 Black Forest Clinic
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the week: "The Legend of the young Dick Turpin"

PRAYER TIMES

03:59 Fajr
05:29 (Sunrise) Duha
12:35 Dhuhur
16:13 'Asr
19:35 Maghrib
20:06 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellah Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661257

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 713361

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151

Austrian International Church Tel. 827981, 685235

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 812951

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

It will be relatively cold and partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be westerly to northwesterly moderate, causing dust in desert areas. In Aqaba, it will be dusty and partly cloudy with northerly moderate winds and rough sea.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN

Min./max. temp. 11 / 20

Aqaba 17 / 28

Deserts 10 / 22

Jordan Valley 15 / 27

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 27, Humidity readings: Amman 57 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Adnan Al Zughoul 898140

Dr. Mufted Tannous 884800

Dr. Ahmad Al Dagen 676473

Dr. Muhammad Abu Mahfouz 793444

Firms pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Nairokh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam

Home News

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Jordan, Turkey discuss cooperation

ANKARA (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri had more talks here Wednesday with his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Kucukbektas in bilateral cooperation in a number of fields.

Mr. Masri, who arrived here Tuesday with a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Turkish President Turgut Ozal, said that he conducted with his Turkish counterpart a general appraisal of the situation in the region and means of bolstering Jordanian-Turkish relations, based on mutual respect and common interest, as well as a number of issues of common concern.

The two sides agreed to pursue contacts and consultations between the governments in Amman and Ankara towards bolstering Turko-Arab relations.

Before he left for Ankara, Mr. Masri said he expected Turkey to support efforts under way to reach a durable peace in the Middle East.

He said that his visit to Ankara was part of Jordan's overall diplomatic offensive aimed at reactivating contacts among countries of the region and presenting Jordan's view point on the ongoing peace efforts for a solution to the Palestine problem.

Mr. Masri's visit is the first high level contact between the two countries since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, last August, except for a visit to Ankara, during the past crisis, by a group of parliament deputies to improve bilateral relations and to discuss the consequences of the crisis on the Middle East.

Along with Jordan, Turkey and Egypt were considered by the European Community as the nations the worst affected by the Gulf crisis, making them eligible to more than \$2 billion in financial assistance.

During the Gulf crisis, professional associations in Jordan sent Mr. Ozal a memorandum urging him not to allow the U.S.-led alliance to use Turkish soil as a springboard for launching aggression on Iraq. The memorandum, which was totally ignored by the Turkish leadership, said if the Turkish government allowed foreign powers to use its territory as a pad to launch aggression on Iraq, it would open the way for Turkish-Arab hostilities.

Department of Meteorology foresees more rain for May

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Rain and hail fell in many parts of Jordan Wednesday and the Department of Meteorology said that more could be expected any time this month.

Indeed rain fall in May is not a novelty in Jordan and statistical figures available to the department support this view, according to the Department's Deputy Director Rafiq Shaker.

This time the rain and the high winds were caused by the presence of a high depression centred over Europe allowing a current of cold air to blow from the North Polar regions towards the Eastern Mediterranean zone, Mr. Shaker said.

"Had this happened in the winter season, Jordan would have been covered with a blanket of snow," Mr. Shaker added.

He conceded though the highest temperature of 19 degrees centigrade on Wednesday was not normal for this time of the year when it is usually above 24 degrees centigrade.

Mr. Shaker expected the activity of the cold air and the effects of the depression to recede gradually starting from Thursday, to phase out by Saturday or Sunday and be accompanied by a gradual rise in temperature which could reach normal level by Sunday.

To back his views, the department official said that a chart revealing the amounts of rain in May of the previous years showed that rain fell in different amounts in May of 1938, 1945, 1957, 1963, 1967, 1972 and 1982.

Mr. Shaker particularly mentioned 1982 when an unusual 67 millimetres of rain fell within three days in the middle of May.



Her Majesty Queen Noor makes a tour of Carter Centre in the company of the former president's wife Rosalyn Carter

Queen visits Carter Centre

ATLANTA (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, now on a visit to the United States, has visited the Carter Centre where she was met by Mrs. Rosalyn Carter, wife of the former American president, who escorted her on a tour of the centre's divisions.

The Queen was also briefed on the center's different programmes and activities, especially those related to socio-economic development and human rights in developing countries. Discussions between the Queen and the accompanying delegation and the Carter Center staff focused on areas of mutual interest, namely agriculture, health, nutrition and human rights.

Earlier Queen Noor visited the

CNN Center in Atlanta where she met with Ted Turner and attended a working lunch with CNN's top executives, producers and anchors. Discussions focused on the human cost of the Gulf war and its socio-economic impact on the Middle East. The Queen discussed with CNN officials current efforts to establish a CNN permanent office in Jordan that would help ensure better understanding and coverage of the country's and the region's events.

Queen Noor visited the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change where she laid a wreath on Dr. King's grave and discussed Jordan's and the

center's shared commitment to dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation as essential to the promotion of peace and development in today's world.

The Queen later arrived in Los Angeles where she will address the Town Hall and meet with several officials and organisations involved in Middle East issues and international development.

The Queen is currently on an official working visit to the U.S. where she is meeting with a number of private and public organisations and individuals for the purpose of exploring avenues of mutual cooperation between the U.S. and Jordan in areas of socio-economic development.

New party to care for environment and the needy

Green party formed in Jordan

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prompted by the prevailing atmosphere of political pluralism in Jordan, a political Jordanian Green Party (JGP) has been formed.

JGP, which is, so far, made up of 120 members, aims at defending the Jordanian environment and help the needy.

In its first general assembly, Tuesday, the founding members gathered to officially announce the birth of JGP. The discussions stressed on the philosophy of the party, such as what role it would play and what mechanism it would adopt. Many of the members were concerned that JGP would "be like other political parties in the sense that it would be an imitation of what is happening outside."

"We certainly hope to work towards opening this party to all Jordanians, everywhere, without discrimination," said Muin Kassis, a member of the founding committee.

The idea of the Jordanian Green Party surfaced two months ago when Sultan Al Hattab, Al Rai columnist, published an article in his daily column "Bisara" on March 16. In that article, Mr. Hattab wrote about a very poor family whose children were unable to go to school because they did not have enough food. According to Mr. Hattab, about 65 citizens called expressing readiness to help.

Mr. Hattab said: "The idea of the party materialised based on this incident and after talks with many citizens on how to help the needy." He added that political parties are still measuring the loyalty of their members based on class, religion and ideology "leaving behind thousands of Jordanian people unable to express their ideas and willingness to serve the community."

Voluntary organisations, he said, "are still unable to do all the work despite their immense accomplishments." What is needed therefore is a social-political party that "would belong to all Jordanians" without discrimination.

"The party would tackle preserving the environment as well as social issues and the cause of the poor and needy, especially children."

It was decided that the party would be based on politics "because all the social and environmental causes are political," Mr. Kassis told the Jordan Times.

In order to get consent to work successfully, the founding members believe that the party must be backed up by a political body. "There must be a political concept through which the JGP can fulfill its objectives by reaching the Parliament to introduce the necessary legislation that would work to protect the environment and other related issues," Mr. Kassis said.

JGP however, differs from other political parties because there is no clear leadership yet. "We are doing quite the opposite," Mr. Kassis asserted. "We want to start from below — the people — and then move upward to elect a leadership," he added.

Although there are Green parties in Europe, Asia, Africa and in Egypt, they "work mainly for protecting the environment from hazardous pollution problems. Jordan does not suffer from serious pollution, but there are signals

that point towards disaster," Mr. Kassis said. "We are not a branch to Green parties in the West, the only relation we have is one towards working for a better environment," he added.

JGP's main objective will be to set up social, economic and political programmes under the umbrella of the constitution and the guidelines of the Jordanian national charter. The issue of ecology, Mr. Hattab said, is clearly mentioned in articles 18 and six of the national charter.

Towards the end of the general assembly meeting, the members agreed on electing a 10-person committee to act as a provisional secretariat. Its main purpose is to collect written ideas, working papers and proposals from the members to try to draft a charter.

What is needed most, according to Mr. Kassis, are experts who will be able to do research work and propose solutions to any issue hazardous to the environment. The issues high on the party's agenda are water and air pollution and greening the country.

JGP has already begun to collect information about pollution in the country and "we will join forces with organisations who have already warned against these problems," he said. As a party, "we will not hesitate to organise protests against any pollution threats, send memos, letters, visit and follow up issues that are indirectly or directly involved in ecological aspects."

The committee also agreed to send a cable to His Majesty the King. The cable will mention the existence of JGP and its work for the Jordanian people.

ment to organise an international peace conference based upon the three following important principles: Peace: to let God's creation exist. Freedom: to live and let live in likeness with all that exists. Love: to say unconditionally yes to life.

The group believes that when these three principles are realised in the whole world, people would live in peace and freedom with each other. They are asking the Jordanian government to sponsor and support this peace conference.

On May 26 the group will hold a meeting for the press, for important personalities of Jordan, political parties, independent organisations or their representatives at 3 p.m. at the Ammon Hotel.

During the visit to Syria the group invited the Syrian govern-

Italian peace activist honoured

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday conferred Al Kawkab medal of the first order on a leading Italian peace activist Ernesto Olivero in recognition of his distinguished humanitarian services and endeavours for peace.

The King received Mr. Olivero at the Nadwa Palace accompanied by Latin Bishop to Jordan Salim Al Sayegh. Mr. Olivero conveyed to the King greetings from Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Sakher later presented Mr. Olivero with the Royal Medal at the Royal Court.

Mr. Olivero has been a leading activist in efforts to provide humanitarian services in Italy and other countries.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday confers Al Kawkab medal of the first order on Italian peace activist Ernesto Olivero in the presence of Latin Bishop to Jordan Salim Al Sayegh (Petra photo)

Government eases restrictions on Jordanian-owned foreign-licensed trucks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Wednesday announced a series of measures designed to solve problems related to the transport sector and to encourage the registration of lorries with foreign licence plates owned by Jordanians.

An official statement from the Customs Department said that Jordan would not allow the importation of trucks and the registration of trucks, already in the country, with foreign licence plates.

"The trucks can be registered at the Licensing Department and the customs duty and other fees and taxes can be settled over a period of two years," the statement noted.

According to the statement, engine cabins will be exempted from any customs tariffs, and tariffs on semi-trailers will be reduced from 40 per cent to only five per cent, making the total customs tariffs on the trucks, trailers and semi-trailers together not exceeding 13 to 14 per cent of the total cost of the vehicle. The former rate ranged between 40 to 60 per cent of the total cost of the vehicle, depending on the year of manufacture.

The statement said that customs fees could be paid over a period of two years provided the following conditions are met: 1- Truck owners and importers of trucks can apply to benefit from

the procedure within three months starting from May 20. 2- Only trucks, trailers and semi-trailers are covered under this arrangement. 3- Customs duties and other fees should be paid on a monthly basis with the first instalment not less than 10 per cent of the total required customs duty and taxes, while the rest can be spread over 24 equal instalments. 4- The beneficiary should submit a bank guarantee that ensures that the customs duty and the other fees will be paid on schedule.

The decision was taken only one day after the Truck Owners Association had complained of the high rate of tariffs on trucks. Association President Qasem

Esoub warned that unless the government reduced the tariffs, owners of 9,000 trucks, refrigerators, trucks, and tankers would be severely affected.

Mr. Esoub complained in particular about the high operational cost of the trucks and said that the operations revenues fell far below these operational costs, rendering the transportation business totally unprofitable.

Mr. Esoub also demanded that the government reduce the customs fees on the trucks with foreign licence plates so that they can be registered and given Jordanian licence plates, benefiting both the owners and the Jordanian treasury.

Jordan expresses concern over trial of expatriates in Kuwait

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan is closely monitoring the trials of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates allegedly accused of collaborating with the Iraqis, despite the fact that Jordan has no official representation in the emirate, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

Mr. Mutassem Bilbeisi, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, said that Jordan had informed the Kuwaiti government of its concern over the well-being of its citizens in Kuwait, and that "it is closely monitoring the current situation regarding the trials" of its citizens. "They (the Kuwaitis) know of our demand for the protection of our citizens in Kuwait," Mr. Bilbeisi said. "There is nothing else we can

do at the moment," he added. Earlier in March, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri requested the approval of the Kuwaiti government to send a Jordanian mission to Kuwait in a bid to ensure the safety of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates there. The request was made by the Foreign Ministry following persisting reports which spoke of the mistreatment of the expatriates.

"Jordan could spare no efforts in pursuit of defending the rights of the Jordanian and Palestinian communities (in Kuwait)," Mr. Masri said at the time.

But judging by Mr. Bilbeisi's statement Wednesday, it seems that the Foreign Ministry's request to send a mission to Kuwait has not been granted. Mr. Bilbeisi said that it was

by "coincidence" that the Foreign Ministry found out the names of 15 "Jordanian" journalists who are currently on trial in the emirate. They are charged with having worked on Al Nida newspaper, the only newspaper allowed to operate in Kuwait during Iraq's seven-months occupation of the emirate, and for criticising the Royal family while working there. "We don't even have proof that they are Jordanian, or the number of their passports if they are," Mr. Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times.

The Iraqi run Al Nida first appeared in Kuwait in August. It ceased publication during the first week of January.

The trials against close to 300 alleged collaborators with the Iraqi occupation forces started on Sunday. One case was made famous when the defendant, Adnan Abdul Has-

san Ali, was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for wearing a Saddam Hussein T-Shirt. Defence attorneys complained about the trial proceedings and challenged the prosecutors to bring forward the "ghost witnesses," in order to "examine them."

Western states, who were members of the anti-Iraq coalition, have also expressed concern over the treatment of Palestinians and other expatriates in the emirate. "We are worried about what is happening in Kuwait," French Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard told a news conference on Tuesday. "We hope the trials will be carried out with respect for human rights," he added.

U.S. President George Bush also said he hoped Kuwait "extends a fair trial to everybody" accused of cooperating with the Iraqi forces.

Jordan expects to sell \$1.5m worth of products at Tunis fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is opening a trade fair in Tunis on Friday to promote the sale of Jordanian national products in the Tunisian markets and Ministry of Industry and Trade officials said that the fair was expected to sell \$1.5 million worth of products.

Ministry Secretary General Ibrahim Badran left for the Tunisian capital Wednesday to attend the official opening of the fair by the Tunisian minister of national economy.

Ministry of Industry and Trade officials here said that a wide range of Jordanian products were

being displayed at the fair which was expected to last 10 days.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz last December visited Tunis and agreed with the government there on removing all obstacles in the path of implementing an agreement on trade exchanges. He signed minutes endorsing the establishment of industrial and trade cooperation between Jordan and Tunisia and discussed expanded cooperation in the fields of health, culture and information.

The volume of annual trade exchange between the two countries rose to \$3 million last year.

Of the total amount, \$1.5 million were allocated for exhibitions and the rest for trade exchanges divided equally between the two sides.

According to ministry officials, Jordanian businessmen at the fair were expected to conclude deals with Tunisian importers for purchasing Jordanian products.

Tunisia and Jordan have organised several trade fairs in Amman and Tunis over the past five years, selling national products to the public.

The last Jordanian fair held in

Tunis was in May 1990 when 120 Jordanian companies displayed samples of their products which included, among other things, electrical, plastic and engineering products, leather, medicine, chemical and supply goods, textile products and carpets.

Tunisia held its last fair in Amman in April 1990.

According to ministry officials here, the fair in Tunis, the sixth of its kind since 1986, was part of Jordan's 45th independence anniversary celebrations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION

- ★ Art exhibition by Nazir Ismail at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings, lithographs and monographs, by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Dawik at Abdul Hamud Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. — 8 p.m.)

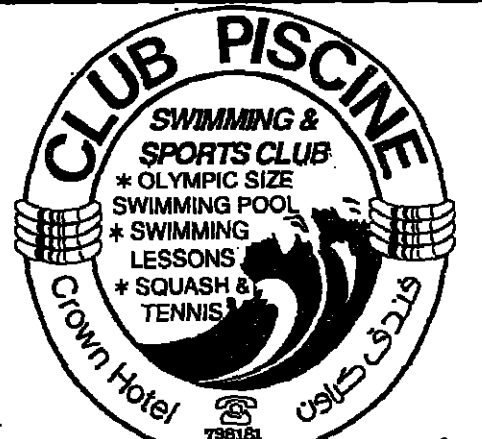
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Jordan Times

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Gandhi spirit lives on

THE ASSASSINATION of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Tuesday is a tragedy that befell not only India but the entire world. His death will be mourned by all mankind for he was not only an Indian leader but also an international statesman who associated himself with important and worthy causes all over the globe. His Congress Party was waging a successful campaign in the run-up to Indian national elections when he was struck down by a cowardly act that ripped his body apart. While the assassins have succeeded in ending his life they will not succeed in destroying his spirit and what the man stood for as long as there is India and humanity to inherit his ideals and aspirations. His mortal body was indeed ripped apart but his soul and spirit will prove to be so enduring and indivisible that it will continue to be felt and appreciated by many of us.

It is crucial to go after the culprits and bring them to account for their crimes. No person or a group of persons should be allowed to get away with committing such a heinous act of an international dimension. Admittedly, though, even the apprehension of the guilty will never uproot political assassination from the face of the earth. The underlining causes need to be identified and addressed in the most enlightened way. Man needs to be educated and reared in tolerance and ideological dialogue instead of using bullets and bombs. The world and mankind have suffered dearly from religious wars that caused a brother to cross swords with his brother. The seeds of political assassination are planted early in life, in the body and souls of the children of the world. Proper education based on tolerance and respect for the views and sentiments of others is the sure way to uproot this scourge from the surface of the earth. Zealots and fanatics, whoever and wherever they are, need to be identified and re-educated on the practice of democratic and peaceful means for it is the only way to stop the butchering of Gandhis and likeminded leaders. As we share with India and its great people their grave sorrow and pain, we pray that the country will soon recover from its bereavement and deep wound. India has been and will remain a bastion for democracy and home to the great civilisation that it is. The best tribute that can be made to its fallen leader is to continue India's march towards sound parliamentary system of government to which the rest of the developing countries can look up for guidance and inspiration.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily congratulated the Yemeni people on the first anniversary of the Yemeni unity and said that this unity offers the Yemeni citizens further incentives for more hard work towards achieving development regardless of the challenges of the modern age. The paper said that uniting both parts of Yemen came at a time when the Arab Nation was facing immense internal problems, but has proved that the Arabs can achieve their objectives no matter that hostile conspiracies were continuing. The paper said the unity of Yemen came as the enemies of the Arab Nation were continually exposing their hostile designs and plotting in the dark to dismember the Arabs and render them a weak nation. Therefore, it said, the joy of the Yemenis on this anniversary is reflected in the minds and hearts of the Arabs everywhere, because it proves that a strong will to survive and to forge unity is still alive and still sought by the Arabs. The paper said that the Yemenis who achieved their unity in the face of too many odds and too many enemies on the internal and external fronts deserve our congratulations, support and encouragement to protect this unity and to work towards a greater unity that can encompass the whole Arab World. The paper said that Yemen's unity came as a hard blow to the malicious enemies who will no doubt pursue their malignant efforts against the Arab Nation.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that Israel was now trying to create a new situation in the Middle East and to place further obstacles in the path of a settlement after aborting James Baker's four tours of the region. This time Israel has chosen southern Lebanon where it is now preparing the ground for a new offensive and a new aggression on Lebanon which partly aims at aborting Syrian-Lebanese efforts to reach a final agreement that can restore peace and security to the embattled nation, said the paper. To pave the way for this new move, Israeli planes have been active over Lebanon, launching new raids on innocent people while in the self-proclaimed security zone its troops have been launching a campaign of arrests. This offensive, the paper said, coincided with statements by Israeli leaders intended as an intimidation directed against the Lebanese leaders. The paper believed that Israel was intent on escalating tension in southern Lebanon so as to divert world public attention from the situation in the occupied Arab territories on the one hand, and to steer America's efforts to reach a Middle East settlement away from Israeli borders on the other. Furthermore, the paper noted, Israel has been accusing Syria of deploying rockets in Lebanon and has been demanding that Syria be excluded from any peace negotiations over the Middle East problem. The paper warned the Arab Nation of Israel's real intentions, and said unless concerted Arab efforts are exerted immediately it would be too late to confront Israel's ambitious and aggressive designs in the Arab World.

King: Arabs need to thoroughly examine Gulf crisis and work with others to achieve Mideast peace

The following is an address by His Majesty King Hussein at the graduation ceremony of the Royal War College on Wednesday.

Brother graduate officers, Honourable guests

I GREET you, and I am very glad to be with you on this happy occasion in which we celebrate the graduation of another group of officers from the Royal War College. I congratulate the graduate officers warmly, and I offer them my great appreciation of what they have accomplished during their higher studies in this advanced institute, where they gained knowledge and developed new concepts in military and strategic science. There is no doubt that their scientific accomplishment will constitute a qualitative contribution to the cumulative progress of our nation, and a notable addition to the development of the Armed Forces which are a source of pride to us. We thank the college faculty, specialists, and officials, for their efforts over the academic period just completed. In particular, I would like to congratulate our brother Arab officers who have shared this course of study with their Jordanian counterparts.

Brothers,

This time last year, Jordan and all its sister Arab states were busy preparing for the Arab summit due to be held in Baghdad to discuss the most important topic that can face a nation or regional grouping: National security. At that time all hearts and minds were full of hopes and ideas to achieve greater progress towards the Arab Nation's cohesiveness and harmony, in the face of the great changes which followed the end of the Cold War. Exactly one year later, we gather here on this notable occasion. This obliges me, before I touch on any other subject, to examine with you the current situation. Specifically, to take a look at the issue of Arab national security, which was the focus of our attention last year. What do we see? I do not propose to review with you the events of the last twelve months. They are vivid in your memories, and their results are evident to you. Moreover, our attitude, our position, our efforts, and our outlook are equally known to you. They all sprang from our unshakable conviction in, and commitment to the common destiny of the Arab Nation and its higher interests, represented by freedom, independence, security, and the peaceful resolution of its disputes. Based on this, we have no doubt in the sound basis of our position, nor in our right to hold our head high, although our position was misunderstood and judged unfairly. I do not wish to dwell on the tragedy and pain which we lived through, along with the whole Arab Nation. I only wish to draw attention to the scale and depth of the change which took place in the course of one year. I regret having to say that the sad events of last year were so intense that they have tipped the scales, changed concepts, and shaken beliefs. Coalitions have arisen. New orientations have developed which indicate that our nation is on the verge of a new era, whose course and direction are not easy to foresee or define.

The only solace which we can derive from the recesses of these events lies in starting serious efforts to draw lessons from our

experience with objectivity and courage, with no illusions or pretexts, and without seeking scapegoats. A severe national tragedy such as the one which has resulted from the Gulf crisis should not be swept away to the recesses of the human mind where it would be a constant source of pain, suspicion, conflict, and strife. It should be overcome and transcended. This can only be achieved if it is subjected to study, analysis, and rationalisation. Only then will the cruel experience become a useful lesson rather than a source of sadness and bitterness, and a cause of divisiveness and strife. It is our duty to transcend our painful past and look to the future, with the lessons of the past guiding us to our benefit and away from a repetition of the tragedy.

Among the lessons that can be drawn from the Gulf crisis are the following:

One: Life does not always follow one's wishes. This is true on the individual as well as the state levels.

Two: Every state has limits on its freedom of decision and action. At the same time, there is not a single state that can exist alone and in isolation, at the present time, when the world has become small and marked by interrelated interests. If a nation selects isolation, it will, in reality, opt for backwardness, deterioration, and decay.

Three: The world is regulated according to the formula of the balance of power, and by international and regional organisations, which also function according to the same formula.

Four: Every state has its national interests which stop where the national interests of other states begin. If a state wishes to carry its interests beyond this limit, it should do so through cooperation not confrontation.

Five: The country comes first and foremost. Its higher national interest supersedes all other considerations. Based on this fundamental understanding, laws are enacted and policies are drafted and implemented.

Six: Every state has its own national agenda which ought to be reasonable, balanced, and realistic. Otherwise that state is likely to squander its resources and achievements pursuing illusions or deadly errors.

Seven: Every Arab state has its own national agenda. Under the Arab League, and until the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, each state's national agenda was conditioned by, or balanced with, the higher Pan-Arab interest. In the fifties and sixties, the Pan-Arab interest prevailed to the extent that it dominated the national agenda of every Arab state considerably. The Gulf crisis produced a new phenomenon where the higher Pan-Arab interest was superseded by the individual state's national agenda. This new phenomenon raises many crucial questions over Arab future, Arab cohesiveness, Arab cooperation, Arab development, and a number of other issues that mobilised the Arab states since the Arab League was established.

Eight: The spread of consumerism during the past three decades is an undeniable reality. More importantly, this phenomenon, as demonstrated by

the Gulf crisis, has affected our national system of ethics. It has also affected that of many others, the best evidence of which lies in the deep change that has taken place in Eastern Europe over the past two years.

Nine: The tragedy in the Gulf reflected the features of a new world order, of which we are part, even though we are not among its prominent makers. While world order is permanent, it is always evolving. In each era, its centre of gravity lies in one state or a group of states. This focus is determined by cultural, economic, technological, and military factors. The world order is not a club to be joined by the states that chose to do so, by filling an application form, or otherwise to be boycotted by states that prefer otherwise. It is a fact of life. The world order is so interconnected that no state can afford to separate itself from it. However, this does not necessarily mean that a state within the world order is guided to a predetermined destiny as if by Providence, or programmed like a robot. Every state or group of states has the right to its own ambitions, identity, and objectives. If it wishes to advance its interests, it can only do so through dialogue, cooperation, work, and organisation in accordance with the rules of the world order. If, however, a state finds its path obstructed by the world order, the answer would not be to rebel against it. The cost would then be very high. Instead, that state or group of states should seek to develop the order and to make new inroads in it, in the hope that it can accommodate the hopes and objectives of that state or group of states. An example of this happened under the past order, that of the Cold War, when the Non-Aligned Movement was able to form a neutral group between the Eastern and Western camps, regardless of the degree to which that movement influenced the prevalent order.

Ten: The Gulf crisis demonstrated the importance and effect of international and regional organisations in controlling events, whether these organisations were political, military, social, financial, economic, legal, or environmental in nature.

Eleven: No matter which features the new world order assumes, and no matter what the respective state agendas may be, the Arab states would be well advised to interact with the world order from a united and harmonious stand, not as disparate and conflicting states. This is what we in Jordan believe, and we shall do our utmost to act on the basis of this belief. Therefore, we call on all our Arab brothers to work together, to turn a new chapter, away from the tendencies of the first Jahiliyah (pre-Islamic age of ignorance).

Twelve: The cumulative human experience gave rise to a number of common concepts and principles which every society needs regardless of its national or cultural identity. Many societies are still struggling to attain these principles and common human objectives, which comprise:

A — Adopting or consolidating democracy and respect for human rights.
B — Attaining social justice.
C — Adopting and encouraging private initiative in the economy.
D — working to protect the environment.

E — Maintaining the supremacy of international law in the resolution of conflicts, and strengthening peace.
F — Development, progress, and working to establish prosperity.

Thirteen: Despite widespread agreement on these principles and common human objectives, and despite claims of concern for them, there remain disparities in the levels of progress and standards of living within the one society and among states. There remain acts of contravention against international law and tolerance of environmental degradation, as well as failure to reverse these effects. There also remain disputes, injustice, dominance of power, and lost rights.

Honourable guests,

Perhaps the most important regional dispute that remains in need of a peaceful solution is the Arab Israeli conflict which, in its international dimension, has become the oldest of all international disputes. The human rights denied are those of the Palestinian people, a part of whom continues to live under occupation, while the other part lives in the Diaspora, with all the pain, fear, and suffering that this entails.

On the sixth of March past, U.S. President George Bush delivered a speech to a joint session of Congress, in which he said that the U.S. administration will work to create new opportunities for peace and stability in the Middle East. He outlined four principles to settle the Arab Israeli conflict and solve the Palestinian problem. These principles are: That a comprehensive peace must be grounded in Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and in the principle of territory for peace; that these principles must be elaborated to provide for Israel's security and recognition; and that they must also be elaborated to provide for the legitimate Palestinian political rights.

Based on five considerations, we have welcomed this initiative. These considerations are:

One: The country which launched the initiative is the same country that led the coalition in the Gulf crisis under the umbrella of international legitimacy. This gives that country credibility as it moves anew to solve the old problem in the same region, which is the Arab Israeli conflict that sprang from the Palestinian problem.

Two: The four principles outlined by President Bush represent a sound outlook towards a peaceful settlement based on international legitimacy.

Three: We consider this initiative a serious American attempt to restore balance to the international position which showed great concern for the implementation of international legitimacy to settle the Gulf crisis on the one hand, while on the other, it had not shown previously the same concern for international legitimacy in regard to the Arab Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem.

Four: The initiative comes at a time when international legitimacy is alive in the conscience of the international community, and a more prominent feature of the new world order, it being the only credible reference in solving international disputes.

Five: The initiative comes in response to a collective Arab demand to solve the Palestinian problem in accordance with international legitimacy, as happened in the Gulf crisis. The different interpretations that surfaced over this subject between the Arab brothers during the Gulf crisis was not at all over the need to apply international legitimacy to the Palestinian problem. It was over the need to link the solution of the two problems, or alternatively, to address the Palestinian problem after the end of the Gulf crisis. Now that the Gulf crisis is solved, and that the U.S.A. has come forward with this initiative, there is no room for procrastination in reacting to it, nor is there room for ignoring it. Should we do so we shall have contradicted ourselves.

Based on the principles outlined in the initiative of President Bush, the U.S.A. came forward with a peace plan, by which a conference would be convened to launch peace negotiations in two tracks: In the first track, each of the Arab states directly involved in the conflict would enter into negotiations, and in the second, the Palestinians would enter into negotiations with Israel. Negotiations on both tracks would start simultaneously, to merge together in the end at one point.

At that point, the agreements concluded by the negotiators would be referred to the United Nations Security Council, which issued resolutions 242 and 338, and which would guarantee the peace accords. Shortly after the start of negotiations on the two tracks, negotiations would start in a third sphere related to regional problems like the removal of weapons of mass destruction, water, the environment, and others. All countries in the region would participate in these negotiations. So far, the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council have declared their willingness to participate in these talks, and to attend the peace conference as an observer. We believe that this is a positive and responsible step which will help the establishment of peace and stability in the Middle East.

We have accepted this outlook in its broad outline. We have welcomed it, stressing our conviction that Resolution 242 means, first of all, respecting the principle of land for peace. A comprehensive and just settlement cannot give Israel both land and peace. That suggestion would be ludicrous because it would signify lack of seriousness in the quest for peace. Based on this we have entered into three rounds of negotiations with the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. James Baker, with open mindedness and seriousness. We have presented him with our point of view on the details of the plan and the elements that it comprises. We have also held similar talks with the Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Alexander Bessmertnykh. As a result of both sets of talks we have gone a considerable way towards reaching agreement.

We hope that all sides will cooperate in the same spirit in order to crystallise a comprehensive agreement to initiate peace negotiations on the basis of international legitimacy. In particular, Israel is requested to abandon its intransigence and to show flexibility in its attitudes, as well as respect for international legitimacy.

cy, because peace warrants that Peace cannot be a reward to one side and not the other.

Peace, which everybody in the area needs after this long conflict, must not be approached with the mentality of the businessman who seeks to maximise his profit at the expense of the other party, seizing the opportunity when the balance is tipped to his advantage. Such a peace cannot last and be permanent. We must view peace as a promise that bodes well for everyone, not merely as an end to the state of war and suffering. Therefore, every side to the conflict must seize the opportunity to spare its people the cost of squandering it as happened in the past.

An in-depth look at the Palestinian problem and at the nature of the Arab Israeli conflict, its scale and dimensions, and at the land-mass on which it takes place, with its area and resources, would show that peace cannot be achieved merely by signing an accord. Peace would need to be protected and developed, thus acquiring regional and international dimensions. It cannot be limited to the parties directly involved. All the Arabs, as well as the influential states — the powerful and the wealthy ones — will also be responsible for achieving peace, preserving it, and developing it.

The alternative to peace, according to the outcome of the Gulf crisis, is the continuation of the status quo. We must remember that the status quo is not static. It changes constantly, and always to the worse. If we were to plot a graph of the lost opportunities for peace we would find that the facts on the ground today are more painful than they were at any of opportunities lost in the past.

Let us be truthful with ourselves. Let us take a look at the plight of the Palestinian people whether living under occupation or living outside of Palestine, except in Jordan, where the Palestinians enjoy full citizenship.

It is truly painful to see the Palestinians dehumanised in the eyes of some. One only needs to see the ease with which a Palestinian can be uprooted, or dismissed from his place of work and source of income. All that is needed is a memorandum from the security agencies or the secret police, and the Palestinian, with his family, finds himself an alien body swept by the wind, without a home, without a land, without income, and without dreams. Only with a continuous nightmare of fear and perdition.

The facts on the ground are painful, but we must face them as they are. We cannot continue to close our eyes to the reality of which we are part. We can neither hide it nor make it vanish by raising our voices in protest against it, or by deluding ourselves into seeing it differently. We must deal with reality with open eyes and open minds, in order to achieve a better situation, even if it falls short of our hopes. This is a fact of life.

Brother graduate officers,

I thank you and repeat my sincere congratulations to you, and I wish you success in serving your country and your nation, with God's assistance.

May God's peace and blessings be with you.

King: Bush's initiative acceptable

(Continued from page 1)

the time. Referring to the events of the past year, King Hussein said that the Arabs lived through pain and tragedy.

"I only wish to draw attention to the scale and depth of the change which took place in the course of one year. I regret having to say that the sad events of last year were so intense that they have tipped the scales, changed concepts and shaken beliefs," King Hussein said.

He said the only solace which can be derived from the recesses of these events "lies in starting serious efforts to draw lessons from our experiences with objectivity and courage with no illusions or pretexts and without seeking scapegoats."

King Hussein said that a severe national tragedy such as the one which has resulted from the Gulf crisis "should not be swept away to the recesses of the human mind where it would be a constant source of pain, suspicion, conflict

and strife." He called on Arab leadership to study, and analyse objectively the results of the crisis.

"Only then will the cruel experience become a useful lesson rather than a source of sadness and bitterness and cause of divisiveness and strife," the King noted.

He said that it was the Arab people's duty to transcend the painful past, and look to the future with the lessons of the past serving as guidelines for the future (see full text of the King's speech on page 4).

India mourns Gandhi

(Continued from page 1)

Gandhi "because she is in grief," said Janardhan Reddy, the chief minister of the state of Andhra Pradesh and a senior Congress leader.

Party spokesman Pranab Mukherjee said the decision of the 18-member Congress working committee, the party's supreme decision-making body, was binding on Mrs. Gandhi.

"The question of acceptance does not arise," he said. The appointment appeared to be an appeal for a sympathy vote in the national election, which has been postponed until mid-June because of the assassination.

It was not clear how long Mrs. Gandhi would remain party leader or calling a party election.

The Congress Party has turned to the Gandhi family in similar circumstances twice before. In 1966, Indira Gandhi was elected party president and prime minister after the death in office of Lal Bahadur Shastri. Party leaders mistakenly thought Mrs. Gandhi, the quiet daughter of India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, would be a compliant puppet.

Sonia Gandhi, 43, often accompanied her husband on the hustings, but stayed in New Delhi with her daughter Priyanka, 21, when her husband campaigned in the south Tuesday.

Iraqi troops to leave Dohuk

(Continued from page 1)

they do not feel safe to return to Dohuk while Iraqi forces remain.

Allied commander U.S. General John Shalikashvili said the number of coalition forces to enter Dohuk was set by a U.S. survey team which Iraqi allowed into Dohuk on Monday.

"The size of the element was determined by the survey team that went in the day before yesterday," the captain quoted him as saying.

The 30-member team of U.S. civilians and armed specialist soldiers went into Dohuk for the day only to examine the state of its water, sewage and electrical services.

Shalikashvili said the coalition troops would "assist in the restoration of necessary services so when we have, hopefully, a large number of Kurds returning to the city those services are there and we are able to help them."

He said they would continue the dialogue with the Iraqi side "to maintain the conditions for as many as the displaced persons so they can go back to their homes

and villages."

Powell to visit northern Iraq

U.S. Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell will visit Turkey on May 29 and U.S. troops in northern Iraq, Turkey said on Wednesday.

"His visit is similar to those by other (NATO) chiefs of staff to Turkey," foreign ministry spokesman Murat Sungur said.

He said General Powell would have talks with Turkish military leaders in Ankara before going to the Iraqi border where nearly 300,000 mostly Kurdish Iraqi refugees took refuge in April.

4 million Iraqi children threatened

In Baghdad, Iraq's health minister said also Wednesday that more than four million children under the age of five were suffering from shortages of baby milk and medicine.

The figure was given by Abdul Salam Mohammad Saeed the day after a team of U.N. specialists reported that at least 170,000 Iraqi children would die from the

lingering effects of the Gulf war. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Mr. Saeed told a senior U.N. official that U.S.-led allies had destroyed water purification and sewage plants, causing the "spread of epidemics and diseases, including cholera."

"More than four million Iraqi children under the age of five are currently suffering from shortages of baby milk, medicine and other necessary equipment," he told Mohammad Abdullah Nour, assistant secretary-general of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In the first systematic examination of public health in Iraq, the team of Harvard-based researchers suggested that dramatic intervention was needed to combat what it said was already an enormous crisis.

The U.N. Security Council has eased its trade embargo on Iraq, allowing it to import food and medicine.

But Mr. Saeed said this was not enough. He urged the U.N. Sanctions Committee to allow Iraq to use its frozen assets abroad to buy medicine.

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Weekender

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Filmmakers document tragedy, hope in Middle East

By Philippa Neave
NEW YORK — After trying for five days, Mai Masri was able to sneak back into her home town after an absence of 14 years. Masri had to use small back roads: the city of Nablus, in the occupied West Bank, was under curfew and declared a closed military area by the Israeli army.

Masri, 32, returned to a city under siege. Nablus is one of the hotbeds of the four-year-old Palestinian intifada against the Israeli occupation. Her aim was to make a film about those who are fighting on the frontline — the children.

The attractive, soft-spoken Palestinian filmmaker is no stranger to the ongoing violence of the Middle East. She and Lebanese-born Jean Chamoun, her husband and long-time partner, have become chroniclers of the struggle of the Palestinian and Lebanese people to survive with dignity in a region ravaged by decades of war and violence. Filming under the bombs in Beirut and in war-torn South Lebanon, Masri has been hailed as one of the Arab world's most promising documentary filmmakers. After making three documentaries dating from 1982 to 1988 the team was commissioned by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) to make a film about the children of the intifada. The result was *Children Of Fire*, which has received critical acclaim in Britain and in the many Middle Eastern countries in which it has been shown.

In Masri's latest film, the intifada is seen through the eyes of children who have known nothing but war and confrontation. Masri's camera follows the ragged youngsters through the streets of Nablus, where they throw stones at passing Israeli troops and throw up barricades of burning tires.

The stars of the film are Fadi, 51, and Hanna, 11. Fadi

is already taking part in the battle. In one of the film's many touching scenes of daily domestic life, Fadi goes through the motions of washing his hands before lunch, after which he will go out into the streets, not to play but to throw stones or act as a lookout, warning other boys when an Israeli patrol approaches. Fadi was once caught and beaten by Israeli soldiers.

Close to 800 Arabs have been killed and over 60,000 wounded and maimed since the intifada started. The only Israelis that most of the children of the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip have ever seen are either soldiers or armed settlers. Masri spent over four weeks with relatives she had not seen for years and filmed many of the scenes in *Children Of Fire* from the windows of their homes. The defiant children who challenge machinegun-toting soldiers every day were not camera shy. Although every family in the city has its own grief — a child or youth killed, imprisoned or wounded — Masri was surprised to find that there is no despair.

"I felt the people were very hopeful, especially the children," she said during a recent visit to the U.S., where she showed the film. "The children talk about the future and of being free like other children in the rest of the world. That is what they dream about, and they have hope, especially the children." Such hope is expressed by quiet-spoken Hanna, who is serious beyond her 11 years. "They have taken away our childhood," she says of the Israelis, "but one day we will be free." Neither here, nor anywhere else in the film, is there evidence of hatred.

The people of Nablus have lived under curfew for most of the time since the uprising began. "People are almost like prisoners in their homes; it has become a routine,"

adds Masri. "For the young people, it's very hard. There is no work, the universities are closed and there is nothing to do. But for them there is no choice, they cannot go back to living under the occupation and being passive."

Returning "was very moving for me on a personal level," she says, "and through the film, I really got a chance to get to know Nablus, go into people's houses, listen to them and their stories." Masri's parents were among the many Palestinians who were displaced to Lebanon during the 1967 war. She was raised in Beirut and then spent several years studying film in America. She and Chamoun now shuttle between Paris and Beirut.

She moved from house to house to avoid detection by the Israelis during the month she spent shooting the film in Nablus. "They were very supportive, all my aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. They hid our equipment in various houses, they hid us. We weren't supposed to be there." In effect the people of Nablus, and the children of friends and family, helped Masri make the film.

One scene shows a hillside cemetery crowded with people bearing a coffin high in the air. As the camera focuses closer, it becomes clear that children outnumber the adults by far. They lead the procession, mocking death.

What the Masri-Chamoun team has done during the past decade is to document a universal yearning for peace and freedom, although their films have been within the Middle Eastern context. Their earlier documentaries were *Under The Rubble*, a film of the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the siege of Beirut; *Women Of South Lebanon*, a documentary about the women's three-year resistance against the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon; and *War Generation* in Beirut, released in 1988 and documenting three generations of young people growing up in Beirut during almost two decades of war.



Palestinian filmmaker Mai Masri and her partner and husband, Lebanese-born Jean Chamoun, risked their lives making *Children Of Fire*, a documentary showing the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories through the eyes of children.

Masri's current project, a film commissioned by Britain's Channel 4, focuses on three generations of women in Algeria, from those who fought in the country's war of independence from the French to the young women of today. Masri and Chamoun have already spent some time in Algeria researching the film. Says she: "We went everywhere in cities and the countryside and spoke to older women who had participated in the liberation movement and with younger ones now involved in furthering the cause of women. We have a pretty good idea about how things have developed for women over the past 30 years."

Through their contribution to the war, Algerian women gained respect and rights that

gave them a very special place in Arab Muslim society. "The role of women in the resistance is not well documented, not even in Algeria itself, and the French have not really made many films about the war," says Masri. "In this film, we are going to try and give them a chance to express what they lived through and look at the situation today in Algeria."

After independence in 1962, women continued their struggle for emancipation and were an inspiration to others elsewhere. But, says Masri, it is clear that in recent years they have lost some of the advantages they had gained. In particular, many felt that the Family Code, imposed in 1984 and based on the Islamic Sharia Law, discriminated against women in matters of divorce and child custody. "The Family Code brought women back out on the streets. These were the same women who had fought

in the revolution and they demonstrated with younger women of the new generation. The older women encouraged their daughters," adds Masri.

The film will be based on interviews, some of which will be with members of 17 recently formed women's associations. "These are young women who are politically active, fighting for women's rights, more democracy and a freer press," says the filmmaker. "Today there is an elite of professional women — doctors, professors and some who have positions in government. They have achieved a lot, but for the majority, the situation is underprivileged. The aim of our film is to give an insider's view of reality without the stereotypes and to allow these women to express themselves and give us the real perspective, the perspective that is never shown —" World News Link.

After war Beirut women battle in the boutiques

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuter

BEIRUT — Lebanon's civil war may now be out of fashion but the women of Beirut are dressed to kill.

Many Lebanese who can afford it — and many who cannot — are mad about clothes, pursuing the latest trends through magazines, televised fashion shows and frequent shopping trips. "There is no one on top of fashion like the Lebanese women," says Beirut designer Elie Saab, whose designs have been shown in Paris, London, and the palaces of Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Competition is as stiff here as abroad and designers say customers insist on secrecy about their orders. Women can return dresses if a duplicate is sold to an acquaintance.

Max Mara store owner May Daher said many of her high-society clients demand exclusive outfits so they never meet another woman wearing the same design.

"Some are so jealous ... they try to find out what a certain client bought to imitate her. Others tell us 'if Mrs. so-and-so asks what I bought, don't tell her' and we don't," she said.

Beirut's thousands of boutiques — some from one-room shops selling cheap locally made copies with "made in Italy" labels, to European boutiques that sell the real thing at the real price.

Foreign designs line the racks of the Max Mara and

Via Spiga Italian shops which opened three years ago during some of the worst days of the civil war.

On their racks are creations by prominent designers such as Moschino, Thierry Mugler, Ozbek and Montanna.

Before civil war broke out in April 1975, haute couture houses Christian Dior, Valentino, Ungaro and Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto had representatives in Lebanon.

Today, local designers are increasingly competing with the world's best as business picks up in Beirut, which returned to government control last December for the first time since 1975.

Saab's clients include princesses and wives of prominent businessmen, politicians and Arab leaders.

He creates a new dress every day for one member of an Arab royal family whom he declined to name — so far he has made her more than 4,000 dresses in four years. "There is not a single colour or design which I did not do for her."

At his studio in the east Beirut suburb of Zalka the 27-year-old couturier said almost three-quarters of his work is sent abroad. His best-known style is a tight dress which emphasises the wearer's figure.

Saab launched his first creations in the early 1980s in Paris, where he studied fashion design.

He returned to Lebanon in 1984 due to high demand for fashion despite a war which had torn the country apart

and shattered a once-solid economy.

Saab's cheapest designs cost about \$6,000. His most expensive model was a \$40,000 jewelled wedding dress for a Saudi bride.

Many of Saab's foreign clients order their outfits by fax machine or telephone. They tell him the occasion for which they need the dress and he works on a custom-made mannequin.

Some Arab princesses send their private jets to fly Saab and his staff to their homes to order seasonal collections. He employs 70 tailors.

Many Lebanese women say they prefer Beirut shopping to that of Paris, Rome or London. "If you buy for a dollar or a thousand, in Lebanon they make you feel welcome while in Europe one gets bossed around," said Majida Oud, browsing at one of Daher's stores.

Other said they felt intimidated by aggressive and impatient sales staff in Europe.

But Beirut's pre-war role as the business crossroads of the West and Middle East — which it hopes to regain — means many women prefer European fashion and disdain local styles.

"I could never wear local clothes. The taste and finish are poor," said Asma Asmar, wife of parliamentarian Anwar Sabbah. "I like European style. It is my character."

But while some turn to the West, other women choose black chadors — but even here, designers also play a role by producing colourful dresses or intricate veils.

Mitterrand's 'great works' will leave lasting mark on Paris

By Douglas Hamilton
Reuter

PARIS — Like Pharaoh's rafts carrying stone along the Nile to the sites of the Pyramids, barges are busy hauling earth from a hole by the River Seine in central Paris for Francois Mitterrand's latest building project.

A huge national library built from glass and steel is to go up by the Tolbiac Bridge, and as with other works he commissioned for the capital, France's "builder president" was personally involved in picking the design.

Socialist Mitterrand, who marks 10 years in office Friday, is creating an architectural legacy that will adorn the Paris skyline long after he is gone.

King Louis XIV built the Palace of Versailles and the Louvre Museum. Napoleon Bonaparte gave Paris the Arc de Triomphe, and Napoleon III had Baron Georges Haussmann remodel the capital.

"A civilisation is judged by its architecture," presidential candidate Mitterrand said in 1981. "Will we succeed in defining our cultural aspirations and making them reality? I will give it all my energy."

Once elected, he was true to his word, creating a major building project each year, to the glory of art, science, learning, even commerce.

Mitterrand gave Paris a gleaming cubist arch set among skyscrapers at La Defense, in line with the Arc De Triomphe, and a stunning crystal pyramid by the

Louvre.

A starkly functional Finance Ministry bestrides the riverside expressway at Bercey, with one end resting on pillars in the Seine, and transparent pavilions housing a new international conference centre are planned near the Eiffel Tower.

The elegant Orsay Railway Station was transformed into a riverside museum of 19th century art. The influence of the Middle East is apparent upstream across from Notre Dame Cathedral in the filigreed glass facade of the Arab World Institute.

A shining sphere crowned the spacious science park at La Villette, filled ever since with excited schoolchildren. A 21st century opera house in moulded concrete grew up on the edge of the Place de la Bastille.

Even Britain's Prince Charles, a scathing critic of some of London's modern architecture, conceded during a recent visit that the French seemed to have more success in blending the modern with the traditional.

He called the Louvre Pyramid elegant and described the Arch at la Defense as a giant frame with the sky as its picture.

"I thought it was remarkable, because this is France and you got it right," he told French Television.

As Mayor of Paris, Mitterrand's right-wing opponent Jacques Chirac had to approve the schemes, but the president encountered no resistance. Eight major projects were agreed before he had been two years in power.

By the end of his first seven-year term Mitterrand had spent 18 billion francs (\$3.2 billion) on architectural projects, or about a third of the budget of Culture Minister Jack Lang, who is also "minister of major projects."

Spending has continued at a rate of about three billion francs (\$535 million). The Louvre Pyramid, which Mitterrand awarded to architect Ieoh Ming Pei rather than tender for designs, has so far been the most controversial project.

Pei has said the \$1 billion pyramid sheltering a wide new underground entry was his most important project. It has been called the world's most costly entrance, and plans for the space-age cone set in a venerable courtyard triggered angry attacks in the conservative press.

But the controversy died down when it was inaugurated in 1988, and tourists appear fascinated by the unique structure surrounded by triangular granite pools mirroring the old museum.

"Pei was in love not only with the Louvre, but also with French history," Mitterrand has said.

By the end of his second term in 1995, the Quai Branly Conference Centre and the "very big library" as it has become unofficially known, should be complete. In Mitterrand's words, it should be one of the world's greatest, "a library to communicate with the whole world."

The grand Louvre project, a total renovation of the museum, is due to be finished in 1996.

book reviews

Shatila's indomitable spirit

By H.J. Skutel

Besieged: A Doctors Story Of Life And Death in Beirut

By Dr. Chris Giannou
Key Porter, Toronto, Canada 1990, 28.95 Canadian dollars

Last September, Toronto born surgeon Chris Giannou was among those awarded the prestigious Order of Canada for his humanitarian work among Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Clearly, Giannou's accomplishments in this respect must have outweighed any concerns in Ottawa about the criticism that might arise from his selection, given that most Canadians feel little sympathy for the Palestinians as a consequence of their support, however qualified, for Saddam Hussein.

However, after reading Giannou's book, it is difficult to imagine that anyone other than the most inveterate hater of the Palestinians could deny the wisdom of the government's choice. *Besieged* is a tautly related chronicle of the 27 months, from October 1985 to January 1988, during which Giannou was director of Palestine Red Crescent Society's hospital in Shatila refugee camp in west Beirut.

Shatila was the site of the Falangist massacre of Palestinians and Lebanese in September 1982. But in 1985 it was no longer right-wing Lebanese Christians who threatened the inhabitants with extinction. Shatila, along with the refugee camps of Rashidiya and Burj Al Barajna, had been encircled by Shi'ite Amal militiamen, acting at the behest of Syria, which was determined to subordinate the entire Palestinian leadership to the will of Damascus. Hence, the three refugee districts must be shelled or starved into submission. The "war of the camps" has begun, and the 31-year-old Giannou has arrived in Shatila to help organise the resistance.

With astonishing ingenuity and foresight, the Canadian and his Palestinian comrades attempt to render the few hundred square yards of the camp, with its 3,500 inhabitants, impregnable. Giannou, who has lived for 17 years in the Third World and performed war surgery for five elsewhere in Lebanon, has much practical experience to draw on. Even so, in his present circumstances he must master the unfamiliar skills of plumber, electrician, engineer and ballistics expert. Among other things, their defensive measures result in an elaborate network of tunnel around the camp's perimeter, from which "elusive gunmen" can cut down the attackers.

But the main focus of Giannou's memoir is his hospital, the camp's "pillar" of resistance, wherein the physical and psychological horrors of the siege are laid bare. There are frequent gripping episodes in the operating theatre where Giannou labours — on one case, for eight hours — to drag mutilated lives back from the edge of oblivion. Often it is the surgical team itself which must supply the emergency blood necessary for a casualty. Operations which Giannou knows to be futile are, on occasion, nevertheless performed, simply to preserve the moral of the hospital staff. At times, post-surgical recovery is confounded by vitamin and protein deficiencies.

But for Giannou, even more trying than the hunger and fatigue is the inability to emotionally distance himself from his patients, with whom the shared deprivations of the siege have bred an ever increasing identification. "How many more friends would I have to bury? How many more would I save? Could I save them? I felt myself rapidly nearing breaking point."

In the early morning, when Giannou listens to the distant bustle of west Beirut's rush-hour traffic and destruction around him take on an eerie air of unreality. In spite of the larger world's remoteness and indifference to the camp's ordeal, Giannou is sustained by the awesome courage and resolve of the camp dwellers, most of whom could have fled before the outbreak of hostilities. "What had become a meaningless platitude for many others was for them a living reality of their daily existence; they would rather die on their feet than live on their knees."

This book validates yet another chapter in the tortured history of the Palestinians. Were it not illuminated by inspiring acts of solidarity and selflessness in the face of horrendous suffering, its mostly unvarnished bleakness might prove overwhelming. As such, *Besieged* constitutes a stirring tribute to the indomitable spirit of the Palestinians and the heroic devotion of its idealistic author.

— Middle East International.

PEN PALS

To the Editor:

It was always my burning desire to get in touch with young people as my friends in Jordan, Kuwait, Egypt, Sudan and other Arab countries. I want male friends in the age of between 20 to 40 years, either native Arabs, foreigners and soldiers. I am 36 years old and a male librarian. I can write in English and German. My hobbies and interests are friendly correspondence, collecting of stamps and view cards, listening to pop music, reading novels and magazines, photography, swimming and travelling as well. I would be very grateful if you publish my request in your most esteemed newspaper.

Yours sincerely,

Hans Kiebart,

Here is my full name & address:

Mr. Hans Kiebart, M.A.
Schacht Str. 8,
Leipzig, 7022,
Germany

The Human 'Chimneys'

By Maha Addasi

Smoking is bad for your health. So you have heard this before and you, like 90 per cent of Jordan's adult population have continued to puff away. Cigarettes are the prime example cited in economics classes under "inelastic commodity" because no matter what the price is the demand is the same. Let us see why that is? But before I go on, I would like to: Define the type of smokers I am discussing, and Extrude vows out of you heavy smokers out there that after reading through this article you would not come after me with matchetes.

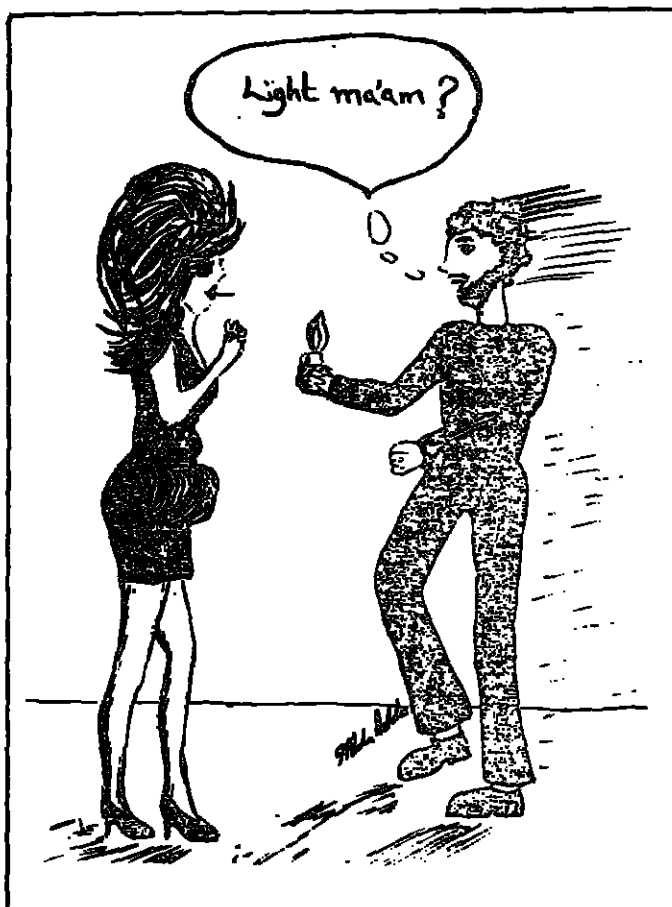
Back to the definition of smokers. I want to make it clear that the people who smoke that occasional cigarette are not included in my definition of smokers. No sir, I am talking about people who light up one cigarette with the end of the cigarette they are smoking and then proceed, in this manner to go through one, two or more packets a day. And if they run out of cigarettes, God forbid, at a time when they cannot go and buy another pack, one gets the impression that these people would have no qualms about relighting one of the cigarette stubs from the ashtray. These are the smokers I am considering in this column.

Smokers can come up with zillions of reasons for why they smoke. Some say they genuinely enjoy cigarette flavours and even if they are ill they feel that their enjoyment greatly outweighs the risks. Others say that smoking is a habit they cannot break. Still others think that smoking cigarettes gives them a kind of aura or image they like. (Hint: You can pinpoint this kind of smokers by the way they grind their cigarettes when they are only half finished and call this "etiquette".)

So as a non-smoker, I have observed, in a somewhat biased manner how some people have continued to burn their lungs in style with, "I only smoke imported cigarettes." I have also realised through observation that it may be too late to save these poor souls and I have decided to target my efforts at helping the potential smokers so that they do not lower their resistance and start smoking. A car-bumper sticker that says "be smart, don't start smoking" comes to mind. I have noticed though that the pull towards cigarettes for some people is too strong. So I decided that first of all I must get to the core of the matter and put myself in a "would be" smoker's shoes and see for myself what the temptations are for these usually young people to start smoking.

I had to keep in mind, of course, that many people's first smoke comes from a "friend" who offers them one to join the group. Others make the decision themselves (do not ask me how) and go and buy their own packet. So I did the latter to study at close range what we, as a society, have already done to prevent those youngsters from becoming "human chimneys" and how effective we have been.

Consequently I took a look at a packet of cigarettes and immediately threw it away. What, after reading that effective, threatening warning saying that "smoking is hazardous to your health," I counted my blessings and thanked God that those words were penned on the



cigarette pack. Had it not been for those words I would have actually started to smoke like all the others. Apparently, though, this line did not work with everyone. Could it be that the words lost their impact? Many smokers laugh when they read the warning and cut through the words to get to the cigarettes. Unfortunately the youngsters actually do get to the cigarettes and from then onwards they become "smokers."

These young smokers grow up and just can not stop, and everyone knows the rest of the story. The kids become different types of smokers: Some puff on a cigarette and hold the smoke in, mid-sentence, for impact. A few use the excuse of lighting up to buy time while they find an answer for a crucial question. Some become ring blowers. It's sad, isn't it?

That is not all though because the missing link is what makes a kid decide he wants to become a smoker. Studies show that children of smokers are most likely to become smokers themselves. These children are introduced to cigarettes at a young age. For example when they learn to count it is something like this: "One cigarette stub, two cigarette stubs, three cigarette stubs," right out of their parent's ashtrays!

The missing boy

By E.Yaghi

One day, thirteen-year-old Rifaat didn't come home from school. He was in the eighth grade and attended a local school not far from his house. At first, his parents weren't worried for the boy often tarried after school playing with fellow class-mates and friends of his. "Children are only young once," his mother would say when questioned the whereabouts of her son.

But when it became late and the orange sun slowly sunk below the blue horizon, Rifaat's father grew tense. What had kept the boy? By the time night came, the father was pacing the floor and the mother was wringing her hands and crying. Something must have happened. Rifaat's older brothers were sent in all directions searching for their brother, but he couldn't be found anywhere.

Some of his classmates were asked, "Have you seen Rifaat?"

They all answered: "No, we haven't seen him since we played ball with him right after school."

Then what had happened to the boy? No one knew. No one had seen him after he left his group of friends. He had been seen heading for home.

Late that night, Rifaat's brothers and sisters all gave up searching for him and went to sleep exhausted. However, in the sitting room of their apartment, the father smoked cigarette after cigarette, wondering what had happened to his son. The mother sat huddled in a corner, sighing every now and then when she wasn't weeping silent tears to herself.

"It's all your fault!" the father yelled. "Why don't you pay attention to the boy and see that he comes home from school on time? I told you that you should take better care of him. He's always playing in the streets. We never know where he is anyway unless it's time to eat or sleep. It's like he lives in a hotel not a home!"

"But" the mother protested, "you can't expect a kid like Rifaat to stay at home. Besides, when all my friends come, it's better to have him out, he makes so much trouble when he's around."

Puffs of grey smoke enveloped the father. His face was dark with rage and wrinkled with worry. His eyes were bloodshot and his hands shook as he tapped cigarette ashes into the cluttered ashtray. "Well, what are your friends going to do for you now? Rifaat is our youngest son! He's only a child. Where could he have gone? Tomorrow I'll ask everyone I know, I won't leave one important person that I know or one stone unturned until I find him. Let's go to

sleep. There's no chance of finding him now."

The mother said in a whisper, "How can I sleep when Rifaat is lost some place, God only knows where? How can I live with-out him?" and she moaned, hugging and rocking herself back and forth as if she were holding a small child.

But tomorrow came and no sign of Rifaat. No word was heard of him either. The father looked every place for his son, but couldn't find him. He asked all the people he knew who were in high places. No one, high or low had any idea where the boy was. The father began to search surrounding towns and villages but to no avail. "What a fool the boy is," the father said to himself. How can he leave and take off without telling us where he planned to go? Perhaps he got in with a bad lot of people and cannot get away. He's just a boy and doesn't even know what he's doing."

Rifaat's brothers and sisters continued their search for him too. They went to all his friends and to his school and even asked his teachers. No one knew or heard anything about him. Finally, they approached the house of one of Rifaat's classmates. A frantic mother came to the door and told Rifaat's siblings, "My son is missing too. He didn't come home last night either. My husband has looked everywhere for him. We don't know where he is. We didn't sleep at all last night worrying about him. Please, if you hear anything about Rifaat, let us know. Perhaps my son is with him too!"

A week passed. Still no word. Rifaat's father went back to his job and his brothers and sisters returned to their various jobs too. Their apartment has been flooded with well meaning friends and relatives. But none can ease the pain of a missing boy.

Usually, a child is thought of to be his parents most precious possession. But, like any possession worth having, a child needs a lot of care. Parents should know where their youngsters are at all times for youth are very impressionable and can be easily persuaded to do many outlandish things by many people who would wish them harm and try to manipulate them for their own evil or selfish purposes.

Two weeks have passed. Rifaat has still not come home. His mother is sick and full of panic and his father is helpless. Meanwhile, what dangerous elements have snared the boy and prevented him from returning to his home and family? Obviously the parents have been lack in their responsibility towards their son and must share the blame for whatever has happened to him. Perhaps if they had been more concerned about him in the first place, he would not be missing now and their hearts would not be broken.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 23	Saturday, May 25	10:20 Paradise	Man has always dreamt of conquering the skies. This documentary sheds some light on two pioneering German scientists who have contributed a lot in the field.
8:30 Day By Day Out For A Stretch Ross needs some cash quickly because he has a date with a charming woman. So he takes up a job as a baby-sitter.	8:30 Bill Cosby Show Rudy learns a good lesson in rectitude and she learns it the hard way.	The Hanging When Ethan saves a Texan friend from hanging, little does he know the trouble he is getting himself in over the incident.	10:00 News In English
9:10 Black Forest Clinic A New Arrival The professor's new born baby coincides with his having a sudden heart attack.	9:00 Encounter Rami hosts Dr. M. Al Haddid and Mr. Suleiman Al Ghamman, both of local and International Red Cross and Red Crescent organisations. The discussion centres around the role of the organisation and the beneficiaries of their aid.	Monday, May 27 8:30 Empty Nest Barbara is attracted to a young man who is supposed to be single. Her daddy is determined to make his daughter know the truth.	10:20 French Feature Film La Chevre Starring: Pierre Richard and Gerard Depardieu Marie Bens sets out one day to discover South America, she disappears as soon as she gets there and her distraught father is left to think of a way to find her.
10:00 News In English	10:00 News In English	9:10 Nancy Wake Australian journalist Nancy marries a Frenchman right before France fall under German occupation. So Nancy and her husband join the French resistance movement.	Wednesday, May 29 8:30 After Henry Going Away When everyone in the house decides to go vacationing, the grandmother worries about the prospects of being left alone. She does something about that.
10:20 Movie Of The Week The Legend Of The Young Dick Turpin A noble landlord usurps the lands of poorer farmers in England. "Dick Turpin, a victim, decides to fight back.	10:20 Feature Film Battle Of Crete Starring: Paul Sullivan, Fernando Sancho The Germans are about to invade Greece, the Greek nationalists manage to smuggle out their country's supply of gold on a ship, but the Germans have already decided to get that gold.	10:00 News In English	9:10 Our House The 100 Year Weekend Grandfather Guss challenges his family to live without modern technology facilities for two days. They almost succeed, but communication lines must remain on.
Friday, May 24 Night Court The judge looks into a complicated case involving an ex-Vietnam veteran and manages to solve it brilliantly.	Sunday, May 26 8:30 Yes Minister Equal Opportunities A discussion with a British minister over women's right to get to the top, the minister is all for that.	10:20 Derrick Derrick investigates the murder case of a businessman who he met in a resort. He has to get to know the victim's family before he is able to identify the killer.	10:00 News In English
9:10 Shakespeare 10:00 News In English	Monday, May 27 10:05 Japanese annihilate Russian fleet of 32 ships in Tsushima Straits off Korea. 1918 - German forces launch major offensive on Western Front in World War I. 1941 - German Battleship Bismarck is sunk by British Navy off France in World War II, with loss of 2,300 lives. 1971 - Soviet Union signs 15-year pact with Egypt, pledging assistance in recovery of all Arab territories occupied by Israel. 1988 - Syrian troops move into Beirut's southern slums, halting three weeks of savage street battles between rival Shi'ite Muslim factions. 1989 - U.S. President George Bush meets with Italian leaders in Rome as White House says U.S. will not withdraw American troops from Europe without consulting first with Western Allies. By The Associated Press	Tuesday, May 28 8:30 Perfect Strangers Finders Keepers Palki comes across some hidden money, and sets out to find the real owner of the money and in the process sifts through many fake claimants. 9:10 Wings Over The World A Tale Of Two German Giants	10:20 Not A Penny More, Not A Penny Less One of Harvey's victims decides to get even with him, so he tries hard to convince the other victims to join in.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, May 23

1926 - Lebanon is proclaimed a republic by France.

1939 - Britain's parliament approves plan for independent Palestine by 1949, which later is denounced by Jews and Arabs in Palestine.

1949 - German Federal Republic comes into effect with capital at Bonn.

1969 - Death toll in Malaysia rioting exceeds 500, with 90 per cent of casualties Chinese.

1971 - Death toll is put at 1,000 in earthquake that destroys town of Bingol in eastern Turkey.

1977 - South Moluccan exiles in Netherlands hold 161 hostages in elementary school and hijack train in effort to get Dutch help in their fight for independence from Indonesia.

1984 - Iranian and Iraqi forces clash along their battlefield amid expectations of a new initiative to arrest the escalating tension in the Gulf over the bombing of oil tankers.

Friday, May 24

1890 - Italy reorganises her Red Sea territories as colony of Eritrea.

1900 - Britain annexes Orange Free State in Africa.

1941 - German battleship Bismarck sinks British battle cruiser Hood in North Atlantic in World War II and more than 1,300 lives are lost.

1962 - London conference of Barbados, Windward and Leeward Islands ends with proposals of "little eight" to form new West Indies Federation.

1964 - Riot erupts at football match in Lima, Peru, and 300 spectators lose their lives.

1972 - United States and Soviet Union agree to put U.S. and Soviet spacemen in orbit together by 1975.

1975 - U.S. President Gerald Ford approves two bills providing more than

\$100 million aid for resettlement of refugees from South Vietnam and Cambodia.

1977 - Soviet President Nikolai Podgorniy is dropped from ruling politburo without explanation.

1981 - Ecuador's President Jaime Roldos Aguilera is killed in plane crash in Andes Mountains near Peru border.

1983 - Abu Jihad, deputy commander of Palestine Liberation Organisation, accuses Libya of sending weapons and money to mutineers in PLO's largest faction, Fateh.

1984 - Israel and the United States reject a United Nations proposal for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

1989 - Ethnic Turks demanding more rights clash with security forces in Bulgaria.

Saturday, May 25

1914 - Britain's House of Commons passes Irish home rule bill.

1915 - China accepts Japanese ultimatum regarding rights in Shantung and leases in Manchuria.

1923 - Independence of Transjordan under Prince Abdullah is proclaimed.

1963 - Leaders of six African nations, meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, form Organisation of African Unity.

1969 - Parliamentary government in Sudan is overthrown in bloodless coup and Major General Jafaar Numeir heads new military regime.

1970 - United States places first of its MIRV missiles in underground silos at air force base in North Dakota.

1979 - American Airlines DC-10 loses an engine and nosedives into ground at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, killing all 272 people aboard in U.S. aviation history's worst disaster.

1983 - Nile River ferry catches fire and sinks in southern Egypt, leaving 194

people dead and 68 missing.

1984 - Senior leader Deng Xiaoping says China will station troops in Hong Kong after recovering sovereignty over the capitalist British colony in 1997.

1985 - Emir of Kuwait escapes assassination after terrorists detonate a bomb in his motorcade. Extremist Jihad Islami organisation claims responsibility.

1988 - Israeli army imposes curfews confining 200,000 Arabs as PLO-mandated general strike shuts down commerce and transportation in occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

1989 - Chinese Premier Li Peng denies that troops surrounding Peking are deployed to crush student protests.

Sunday, May 26

1805 - France's Napoleon Bonaparte is crowned King of Italy.

1854 - France and Britain occupy Piraeus after declaring blockade of Greece for attempting to attack Turkey.

1965 - Surrender of last Confederate (southern) army at Shreveport, Louisiana, ends U.S. Civil War.

1887 - British East Africa Company is chartered.

1924 - U.S. President Calvin Coolidge signs bill limiting immigration into United States and completely excluding Japanese.

1926 - Riff War ends with Abdul Krim's surrender of France.

1933 - Australia claims one-third of Antarctic continent.

1912 - German forces begin their drives for Stalingrad and the Caucasus in World War II.

1954 - Funeral ship of Pharaoh Cheops is discovered in Egypt.

1964 - China rejects appeal by Britain to help halt fighting in Indochina Kingdom of Laos.

1966 - British Guiana be-

comes independent Latin American nation of Guyana.

1979 - Israel formally returns sovereignty of Sinai City of El Arish, which it occupied for a dozen years, to Egypt under terms of their new peace treaty.

1984 - Authorities say Hindu-Muslim fighting in Bombay, India, area has been brought under control through extensive deployment of army troops.

1987 - Sri Lankan troops begin major operation against Tamil rebels on Jaffna peninsula.

1988 - South African President P.W. Botha's National Party celebrates 40 years in power.

1989 - Jewish settlers raid Palestinian village in occupied West Bank, shooting at least three residents.

1990 - Boris N. Yeltsin fails to win a majority in balloting for Russian presidency.

Monday, May 27

1905 - Japanese annihilate Russian fleet of 32 ships in Tsushima Straits off Korea.

1918 - German forces launch major offensive on Western Front in World War I.

1941 - German Battleship Bismarck is sunk by British Navy off France in World War II, with loss of 2,300 lives.

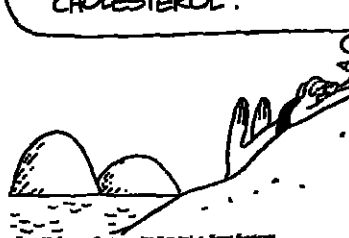
1971 - Soviet Union signs 15-year pact with Egypt, pledging assistance in recovery of all Arab territories occupied by Israel.

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1989 - U.S. President George Bush meets with Italian leaders in Rome as White House says U.S. will not withdraw American troops from Europe without consulting first with Western Allies.
By The Associated Press

B.C.

SCIENCE NEVER SLEEPS. THEY'VE COME UP WITH AN EGG THAT HAS 50% LESS CHOLESTEROL.



HOW'D THEY MANAGE THAT?



IT'S A ROBIN'S EGG.



'She-Hulk' Brigitte Nielsen dreams of comedy role

By Michela Wrong
Reuter

CANNES, France — If you're a woman, standing six foot (1.88 metres) in your stockings and having the kind of shoulders any screen hero would envy is hardly a source of amusement.

But Danish model-turned-actress Brigitte Nielsen's ambition is to use her strapping physique as the starting-point for a new career in comedy.

"You can stand six foot three (1.5 metres) in heels and make fun of it," said 27-year-old Nielsen in an interview on Thursday. "I would be nice not to take oneself seriously."

The woman whose career took off when she starred opposite Arnold Schwarzenegger in Red Sonja dreams of a romantic comedy in which she would be coupled with the likes of diminutive Dudley Moore or Danny

De Vito, making the most of the match's musical disparities.

"I like contrasts. It would be nice to show two opposites who adore one another for the qualities within, not external appearances. It would be very funny too."

But Nielsen, firmly associated with superwomen role thanks to her Red Sonja days and a failed marriage to Sylvester Stallone, is afraid of changing her image too suddenly.

"Transitions should never be made overnight because you can't afford to turn down the people who adore you for your action persona. It has to be gradual."

After a career lull caused by the birth of her second son, Nielsen is in Cannes touting her next film.

In She Hulk she remains true to form, playing a demure lawyer who one day receives a blood transfusion from her cousin David Banner, also known as "the In-

credible Hulk."

The transfusion gives her the same ability to turn into a green-tinged super-being with amazing powers. The story is inspired by the popular Marvel comic strips.

"She's a fun, good-looking green, hulk who's just out to have a good time and save the world," says Nielsen.

Dressed in a dramatic black "lady vampire" dress complete with elbow-length gloves, her cropped hair dyed albin blonde, Nielsen is clearly not afraid of making an impact. But even she originally shrank from the idea of appearing green on screen.

"I thought it would look dead and lifeless, but we did several makeup tests and I'm pleased with the result. It's going to be a light shade, not a heavy green."

Only her face will be made up, and Nielsen will wear a green body stocking for full-figure shots. She says she was afraid of making up her en-

tire body, citing an actress who was once killed this way.

"I was afraid of poisoning myself with green makeup. Eventually your body can't breathe and you die."

The film, due to start shooting in Australia in September, involves plenty of action. Nielsen expects to spend a month of intensive training getting fit.

"I won't be doing all the stunts because I can't do back flips...thank goodness at least Jennifer the lawyer doesn't have to do anything physical."

Living now in Los Angeles with music video director Sebastian Copeland, Nielsen looks back with pain on the days when gossip magazines picked obsessively over the details of her life with Stallone.

There was something about the larger-than-life couple that caught the tabloids' lurid imaginations, and what they did not know, they made up.

"I think at one point I was



Brigitte Nielsen with Sylvester Stallone

getting a bad press all over the world. But no one knows what really went on behind those walls."

She is determined to spare

her one-year-old son that experience. "I don't want my child exposed to the press — that's a baby, a child and you have to leave him be."

They're groovy, they're fab, they're... The Parrots?

By Chris Peterson
Reuter

TOKYO — Ladies and gentlemen, live on stage at the Cavern Club we have the fab four, the sound of Liverpool... the Parrots.

The Parrots? Wait a minute. The opening chords of Can't Buy Me Love send a shiver down the spine as visitors gaze at four men on stage in high-necked khaki tunics and wonder if they're caught in a time warp.

But no. This is Tokyo, 1991. And the mood is light-years away from the sweaty, smoky ambience remembered by regulars at the real Cavern Club.

Despite their best efforts, the Parrots aren't John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr, the Liverpool lads who changed the face of pop music in the 1960s.

In fact, Yoshii (John), Kurosawa (Paul), Ozawa (George) and Matsuzaki (Ringo) are local boys who have never even visited Britain.

Still, all the gear is there — the left-handed Hofner bass, the Rickenbacker guitars like the ones John and George played, Ringo's Ludwig drummer and the Vok amplifiers that mean "1960s pop concert" to any music fan now aged forty-something.

The Parrots' biggest asset is guitarist Yoshii, a 34-year-old Beatles-worshiper.

"I go way, way back. I remember listening to my older brother's Beatles records when I was in primary school in 1964. It's simply the best there is. We've got to keep live Beatles music going," he said during a break in a set at the Cavern Club in Tokyo's Roppongi entertainment district.

"I listen to Beatles music day and night. It's the only one."

His thick coke-bottle glasses, ginger-tinted sideburns and long brown hair with a middle parting — combined with a hooked nose and wolfish smile — give him an uncanny resemblance to his hero John Lennon.

On stage, Yoshii has the same raw voice which once captivated millions. He even plays guitar the same aggressive way Lennon did.

The songs, the gestures and the style are identical to any Beatles album or stage act you care to name, the result of countless hours of listening to their music and watching videotapes.

Off stage, Yoshii can hardly string two words of English together. In the Japanese manner, he is punctiliously polite — which Lennon never was, as even his most ardent fans will admit.

"I want to keep on doing this as long as I can sing. There's nothing else in my life except Beatles music," said Yoshii.

He shyly admits to one advantage over the 20-odd bands in the area who regularly play Beatles tunes; he actually met McCartney when the musician was in Tokyo on a 1990 tour.

McCartney's back-up band came to hear The Parrots and agreed to introduce Yoshii to McCartney next day.

"I asked him what he thought about bands copying the Beatles and he said there must be 10 million Paul McCartney out there," Yoshii said in reverential tones.

The Cavern Club audience on any given night is an odd bunch — besotted Japanese businessmen and office workers, middle-aged Western tourists and teenaged girls. They all sit attentively, resisting any urge to dance.

Berlin's museums on slow road back to former glory

By Otto Mayr
Reuter

Berlin — Berlin's art treasures, scattered in the chaotic last days of World War II and kept apart by 40 years of cold war, are reunited on paper but not yet in fact.

Tourists no longer have to cross the iron curtain, by East German currency and endure border guards' icy glares to see the giant ancient Greek altar of Pergamon, the Ishtar Gate from Babylon and the statues of Prussian sculptor Schinkel.

And since the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, east Germans can see the exquisite Nefertiti bust in west Berlin's Egyptology Museum or the Beyer of Rembrandt in the Dahlem Collection.

But the collections dispersed among nearly three dozen museums cannot simply be brought back together. It will take more than a decade and at least two billion

marks (\$1.2 billion) before Berlin's cultural heritage is truly reunited.

War losses and post-war additions have changed the collections, and the modern tourist's expectations have changed the way museums work.

The state-funded Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, which has run most west Berlin museums since 1961, took over east Berlin's main museums when east and west Germany united last year and is in charge of putting them back together.

Wolfgang Kahleke, spokesman for the foundation, said the project focuses on restoring east Berlin's unique Museum Island, where five museums purpose built between 1830 and 1930 stand side-by-side on a central site on the Spree River.

Renovating the island will cost 1.5 billion marks (\$870 million) and take 15 years, the foundation estimates.

One museum, bombed during World War II is still a ruin. The others must be remodelled to serve masses of tourists and support huge collections in a more logical order.

Ironically, while Berlin has enjoyed a tourist boom since the wall fell, there are now fewer visitors to Museum Island. East Germans are too busy discovering the West and East Europeans cannot afford the hard currency trip.

Officials want to adapt the museums for a wider audience.

"These museums were built for the art-loving citizen, not for the masses of tourists who arrive in buses, get marched past the main attractions, and then out again," said Karl-Heinz Priese, director of east Berlin's Egyptian collection.

The challenge was to set up exhibits that satisfied both unsophisticated tourists as well as art-lovers and histo-

rians who demand much more from the displays.

Defending the slow pace of change, Priese said: "We have a historic chance to arrange these collections in a way that makes sense for the long term. It's a temptation to come up with quick and temporary solutions, but these collections deserve better than that."

Berlin's best-known attractions, the Pergamon Altar, the Procession Avenue from Babylon and the Ishtar Gate, and other antiquities will fill three of the island's five museums. European art will fill the other two.

Folk art and collections of Indian and Far Eastern art will go into the sprawling complex in Dahlem, 10 km from the city centre. More European art is due to fill a new museum near the central Tiergarten Park, scheduled to open in 1995.

But while they agree on the principle of unification, Ber-

lin's curators are reported to be at loggerheads over how to use space and money.

The Berliner Zeitung newspaper said the quarrel pitted purists who considered their museums educational against popularisers who wanted to whisk huge crowds past the exhibits.

Guenter Schade, general director of east Berlin's museums, acknowledged there were plans to rearrange the Pergamon Museum so that tourists could view its main attractions quickly.

"None of these collections are going to move until renovations on the island have got somewhere, and that's 10 years off. By then we'll all be gone, and the next generation can decide how to arrange these things," he said.

Thought big changes on Museum Island are years away, new exhibits are

appearing.

A collection of art with strong Communist and anti-fascist themes on display in the island's Altes Museum since before east Germany's 1989 revolution will close soon to make room for a Rembrandt exhibit.

Schade said some east German "Socialist realism" art will be distributed to other museums, and the rest will be stored. Works would be displayed purely on artistic merit and not for their historical curiosity, he said.

United Germany's improved relations with the Soviet Union have boosted efforts to locate Berlin art treasures missing since 1945.

Some 400 large paintings, including works by Rubens and Van Dyck, are known to have been destroyed in the last days of World War II. But other masterpieces may have been looted by the victorious allies.

'Les magasins waucquez'—home of the comic strip

IF YOU are wandering round Brussels, you may well come across a building with some very striking architecture. This is the home of Lucky Luke, Tintin, the Schtroumpfs (known as Smurfs to English-speaking fans), Gaston Lagaffe and many other Belgian comic-strip heroes. It is the Centre Belge de la Bande Dessinée, or Belgian Comic-Strip Centre.

The particularly unusual feature of this "museum" is that it used to be a store. But it was not just any store: the Maison Waucquez is one of the leading examples of the art nouveau architecture popularised by Belgium at the beginning of the 20th century.

After many months of painstaking restoration work, two schools of art which have won Belgium international renown are now combined under one roof: art nouveau, and the comic strip.

A style is born

At the end of the 19th century, four young architects broke new ground in the European architectural tradition. The movement was based on "the use of new techniques, the discovery of new materials and the emergence of new needs." A Belgian, Victor Horta (1861-1947) was one of the principal members of this pioneering group.

Horta's work is the apotheosis of metal and stone. He made harmonious, balanced and functional use of these two materials in his sensitive, lively designs. His work was inspired by natural

forms and made subtle use of daylight in its interiors.

The usual source of light for large shops at this time was a glass roof above a light well, which created a diffuse light throughout the building. The walls were simply glass and steel screens set in stone frames. Light entered not only through the roof, but also through the wide windows. Cast iron beams formed a metallic skeleton to the facade; instead of concealing these, Horta made a feature of them, something which hitherto had been done in industrial buildings.

Horta also went against the stark, modernist style which were in vogue at the time, and instead sought inspiration from natural forms. The cast iron lines of his balconies and staircases are reminiscent of flowers and plants. This was the birth of a new style: art nouveau. Horta was also the first architect to extend his creative talents beyond the boundaries of architecture and into the associated areas of interior decoration, furniture and other functional elements.

The Maison Waucquez

By the time Charles Waucquez contacted Victor Horta, the latter had already established something of a reputation. The Maison Waucquez specialised in clothing fabrics and wanted to have a new building for its wholesale textile business. Horta was a very experienced architect by this time, not least following his design for the revolutionary store, "Innovation." Of Horta's six large stores, only the Maison Waucquez still

exists. Horta produced the plans for it in 1903, and the store was opened three years later.

In the words of Franco Borsi, Horta had reached the pinnacle of his profession when he built the Maison Waucquez, though some of the more characteristic features of his style are absent here. This is most apparent in the building's facade: there are none of the typical metal structures, and the windows and doors do not have the irregular proportions which were such a common feature of his work. Also, he has simplified his use of wrought iron. Although Horta continued to draw his inspiration from plants and flowers, these are less apparent than in many of his other works, with stylised flowers and simple curved stems. This change of emphasis is clearly apparent inside the building, particularly in the entrance hall and the stairwell. The simplified style that Horta used in the Maison Waucquez is a forerunner of the less extravagant style of the 1920s.

Saved from the ruins

The Maison Waucquez closed its doors in 1970. The building, a key example of Horta's work, was abandoned and slowly but surely began to deteriorate. A few years later, it had passed the point of no return, and for the next 17 years it remained derelict. A ray of hope came in 1975 when the building was listed following intervention by Jean Delhay, a former colleague of Horta's, but no-

thing was done to save the building.

With its area of 4,000 square metres, its lightness and its historic importance, the building was ideally suited for use as a museum. But in fact the building is not so much a museum as a temple to the comic strip. The comic strip is a distinctive part of Belgian culture and has become a successful tourist attraction.

In 1980, a group of comic-strip fans paid their first visit to the building. They returned shortly afterwards with Bob De Moor, an artist at Hergé Studios, and Alain Baran, Hergé's business agent. Hergé himself was an ill man by this time, and did not come with the group, but he was enthusiastic when they described the building's potential to him afterwards.

His enthusiasm was shared by the minister of public works, Louis Olivier, who gave the project a favourable reception when it was submitted to him four years later. He decided that the Maison Waucquez would be purchased by the Buildings Directorate, thereby saving it from total ruin. The Directorate's sole function is to restore buildings which form an important part of Belgium's architectural heritage. Many of its projects are intended to encourage the people of Brussels back into their city and, by restoring its buildings, to make Brussels a more attractive place to live in.

However the store was not returned to its former commercial function. Some parts of the building were simply too big, or needed more

radical restoration. The idea of using it to house the Belgian Comic Strip Centre opened up exciting new possibilities.

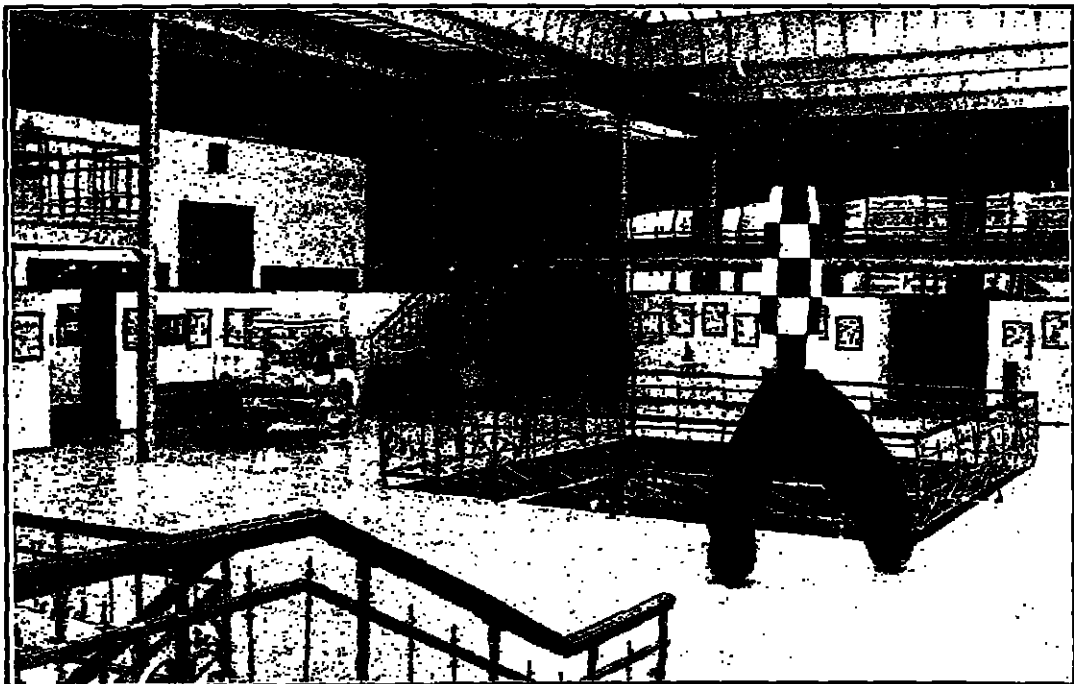
Rebuilding

The restorers took great care to return the building as closely as possible to its original appearance. The architectural features which characterised Horta's work were all restored to their original condition: the mosaic tiling, the skylights, the wrought iron work, the imposing staircase and the wood and glass partition walls. All the structures which had been added to the building over the course of time were removed, with the exception of the mezzanines by the architect Charles Verhaert, dating back to 1912 and 1913.

The display and store-room fixtures were retained because, although not designed by Horta, the help to recreate the atmosphere of the building. The building's use as a Comic Strip Centre meant that some modifications and new building had to be carried out, but this was done so as to harmonise as much as possible with the character of the rooms and the overall architecture.

The materials used for this work are very close to those used in the original construction; often the iron work and wood work additions merge invisibly into the original decor.

The restoration was carried out by the architects Cooparch, directed by Pierre Van Assche. Financed by the Buildings Directorate, the



After many months of painstaking restoration work, two schools of art which have won Belgium international renown are now combined under one roof: Art nouveau, and the comic strip.

work was done in two stages. During the first, from Feb. 1 to Nov. 9, 1988, the building's exterior and the inner rear courtyard were restored. The second stage, from Aug. 16 to Sep. 11, 1989, involved restoring the interior of the building and adapting it to the new function as museum. The contractors had considerable problems finding craftsmen with the skills required.

Home to the comic strip

Finally, on Oct. 6, 1989, the Belgian Comic Strip Centre opened its doors. As a shrine to what has been described as "the ninth art form," it spans the whole history of the Belgian comic

strip, from its distinguished origins to more recent developments. Brussels can be justifiably proud of its first museum of the comic strip, though the term "museum" is not really an accurate description. The Belgian Comic Strip Centre is not just a shop window for this art form: it is also an international forum for people to meet and exchange information.

The centre contains more than 1,500 original plates and lithographs by Belgium's best-known comic strip artists: Hergé, Jacobs, Cuvelier, Martin, Laudy, Sirius, Franquin, Sleen, Vandersteen, De Moor and many others. Its fully computerised library contains some 25,000

books, and the centre also has a specialist bookshop and permanent exhibitions on the leading figures in the world of the Belgian comic strip.

The centre is very conscious of its important public role, and also serves to promote the comic strip as an art form. It is very well equipped to do so, with a team of specialists and its own quarterly magazine, published in French as "Pream-bulle" and in Dutch as "Imago." The magazine gives news of the centre's work and of comic strips in general.

A pearl of art nouveau architecture has in this way been transformed into a shrine to the comic strip — Belgian Features.

Gene that may play role in schizophrenia is identified

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Scientists have said they had identified a gene that may predispose some people to schizophrenia.

A particular variant of the gene showed up in people with schizophrenia far more often than one would expect by chance, the researchers reported.

That variant may predispose some people to schizophrenia, or it may lie very close to some other unknown gene that does so, the study concluded.

But the finding may simply be a result of how the study was done, they cautioned.

The work was presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in New Orleans by Alan Sanders and colleagues at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

"This is the kind of lead that we need to help give us some more clues, some things to search for," to understand the genetic contribution to the disease, said Dr. David Shore, assistant chief of the Schizophrenia research Branch at the National Institute of Mental Health.

By finding and analyzing genes that predispose people to schizophrenia, scientists may be able to understand what goes wrong and devise new medications, he said. Eventually, preventive methods could be found, he said.

The new work is promising, he said. But he cautioned that so far, promising findings for locating schizophrenia genes have failed to be borne out by follow-up studies in different groups of people.

Scientists do not know what causes schizophrenia,

but prior studies show that genes seem to confer susceptibility.

Schizophrenia patients show such symptoms as thinking they are somebody else or suspecting others are trying to harm them. They may also hallucinate and exhibit thought disorders in which they shift between topics without realizing they are making no logical sense.

In the new study, researchers studied several genetic sites in 55 people with schizophrenia or a related condition called schizoaffective disorder, and in 51 people with no psychiatric diagnosis. All were unrelated whites of northern European origin.

The genetic link came in a particular variant of a gene that tells the body how to make a substance called porphobilinogen deaminase. The body uses this substance to help detoxify a pigment produced by the liver.

People generally carry two copies of any kind of gene, and each may be a different variant. In the new study, the disease was more likely to have appeared before age 30 if both copies were the schizophrenia-linked variant.

Dr. Charles Kaufmann, a psychiatric geneticist at Columbia University in New York, noted that the gene is also implicated in a disorder called acute intermittent porphyria, which can cause psychosis, the loss of touch with reality also seen in schizophrenia.

Researchers should now see if the association between the genetic variant and schizophrenia appears again in different populations, he said. Scientists must take care to draw schizophrenic patients and healthy people from shared ethnic backgrounds in such studies, he said.

Soybean proteins may protect against cancer

LONDON (AP) — Premenopausal women who eat foods rich in soybean proteins have a 60 per cent lower risk of developing breast cancer, researchers reported in this week's *Lancet*, in a study based in Singapore.

The proteins, found in soy sauce, tofu, and soybeans, are loaded with phytoestrogens, plant forms of estrogen. Researchers speculated that the plant estrogens might block the activity of human estrogens, female hormones thought to promote certain types of breast cancer.

An increased incidence of breast cancer among premenopausal Chinese women in Singapore in the past 30 years prompted doctors to

wonder whether women were suffering more cancers because they have adopted Western style diets, eating more red meat and fewer vegetables.

Investigators at Cambridge University, the National University of Singapore, and the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France, compared the diets of 200 Chinese women with breast cancer to 420 Chinese women without breast cancer, ranging in age from 24 to 88, from 1986 to 1990.

Diet did not significantly influence the cancer risk in post-menopausal women.

Premenopausal women who ranked in the top third for eating red meat were twice as likely to get breast cancer.

Dr. Walter Willett, professor of epidemiology and nutrition at Harvard School of Public Health, said the findings "are potentially important but certainly one wants confirmatory data."

He said it would be "inappropriate to jump to the conclusion that it's phytoestrogen. There have been other hypotheses looking at other chemicals."

Willett's 1987 Harvard study of 90,000 women including 600 with breast cancer showed no link between animal fat and breast cancer.

Dr. Dan Nixon, the American Cancer Society's vice president for cancer detection and prevention, said the soybean link "sounds logical" but he is not convinced. "It

could have been a red herring," he said.

Dr. Nicholas Day, an investigator in the study and professor of public health at Cambridge University, said soybean proteins seem to act like the popular breast cancer drug, Tamoxifen. Tamoxifen is an anti-estrogen.

Day said that phytoestrogens are also found in grains and beans.

Compared to American women, women in China, Japan, and Mediterranean countries have lower rates of breast cancer and they eat less red meat and more grains and vegetables. Phytoestrogens could be the common denominator protecting these women from breast cancer, he said.

Day pointed to other research at Cambridge University's Dunn Nutrition Unit that showed that women who ate lots of the proteins had longer menstrual cycles. The study shows the potent effects of the plant estrogens, he added.

Experts agree that diet affects the rate of breast cancer, but there is no consensus on how much of which foods lower the risk of cancer.

Contradictory results have emerged from the hundreds of studies linking diet and breast cancer, many showing that increased animal fat increases the risk, a few showing fat had no impact whatsoever.

Day said he is not able to offer specific dietary recom-

mendations in terms of the amounts of soybean proteins to eat daily to prevent breast cancer.

The women could have mixed the soy sauce or tofu with rice. Rice, a high fiber, low calorie food, may have been more protective than the sauce or added vegetables.

Nixon suspects reducing the risk of breast is "a combination of a low calorie, high fiber, and possibly high soybean protein working together," he added.

Breast cancer strikes one in nine American women. In 1991, the American Cancer Society estimated 175,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and 44,500 will die of it.

Study suggests new wrinkle for cigarette smokers

By A.J. Hostetler
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Smoking more than triples the average person's likelihood of premature facial wrinkling, University of Utah researchers reported in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

But the news may cause smokers who get a lot of sun exposure even more worry lines. The two factors combined increased the risk twofold, the study found.

In an editorial accompanying the study, a Mayo Clinic physician said the bad news for smokers that their habit may affect their looks may help health officials sell the message that smoking is bad for your health.

While the link between premature wrinkling and sunning was known, the authors

said their study was the first to link cigarette smoking with "laugh lines."

Lead author Dr. Donald Kaduncie said he hoped the study would provide another model for how toxins cause damage. As skin tissue is similar to lung tissue, the results could give researchers a better picture of what happens to smokers' lungs over time, he said.

The scientists studied 109 white smokers and 23 white non-smokers between ages 35 and 59. The smokers had smoked between three to 50 pack-years, with a pack-year equal to smoking one pack a day per year.

Each subject was asked to estimate the number of hours spent in the sun, and that information was adjusted for location, use of sunscreen or protective clothing and pig-

mentation.

The subject's temples were then photographed and the degree of wrinkling graded by two physicians using a previously developed scale. The reviewers, who did not know whether the subject was a smoker or non-smoker, agreed on the degree of wrinkling 81 per cent of the time, and disagreements were averaged.

The degree of wrinkling increased with the number of pack-years. The increased risk of premature wrinkling with a smoking history of less than one pack-year was one, while the risk doubled for pack-years between 1 and 49. For more than 50 pack-years, the risk was 4.7 times.

Sun exposure of more than 50,000 hours alone — about that experienced by

people who work or exercise outdoors — increased the risk eight times.

But sunning and smoking combined multiplied the effect by 12 times.

Kaduncie said he's not sure how smokers of other races experienced wrinkling due to cigarettes.

The researchers said they weren't sure why smokers' skin wrinkled earlier, but sug-

gested that known changes in the blood vessels feeding facial skin may play a role as well as the direct exposure of skin to tobacco smoke.

Dr. Thomas Motzke of the Mayo Clinic wrote that while doctors are impressed with the death and disability caused by smoking, smokers may be more scared by the apparent aging of their faces.

Hyperactive boys risk psychiatric problems as adults, study says

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Hyperactive boys run a heightened risk of psychiatric troubles when they grow up, but most will avoid such problems, researchers have said.

They also are more likely to own and operate a business as adults, maybe because of a distaste for "staying under someone's thumb," said study co-author

Salvatore Mannuzza. The study also found that they tend not to go as far in school as other children eventually do.

Mannuzza presented the findings at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association.

The study followed up on a group of 103 white boys who were diagnosed with

attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder when they were aged 6 to 12. Eighty-five per cent were treated as children, and three-quarters of the treated patients responded.

Mannuzza said researchers also are studying a group that contains 12 girls.

The disorder is far more common in boys. It includes high degrees of inattention, impulsiveness and hyperac-

tivity. About half of cases begin before age 4, and it is frequently not recognized before the child enters school.

The study included 91 of the original sample of hyperactive children, and 95 of the 100 psychologically healthy children chosen as a comparison group in the 1970s.

All participants were ages 23 to 30, with an average age of 26.

Health problem in S. America is much larger than cholera epidemic

By Peter McFarren
The Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia — Cholera's deadly journey across South America has become a focus of world attention, but it is only one of many preventable diseases that kill 300,000 of the continent's children every year.

The epidemic began in Peru in late January and since has spread to Colombia, Ecuador, Chile and Brazil. Altogether about 2,000 people have died — only a fraction of the deaths caused by preventable diseases.

"Cholera is a story but we haven't been able to convince society and the news media that silent deaths are with us every day and are more devastating," said Mayrides, UNICEF's representative in Bolivia. "How long are we going to wait while children continue to die from the benign neglect of society?"

Bolivia — which is to the east of Peru and shares its northern and eastern borders with Brazil — has been spared the cholera epidemic so far, but health officials believe it is closing in.

Health officials blame poverty for the high toll by preventable diseases in South America. They say governments loaded down by foreign debt don't have the money to fight back, and in other cases money isn't spent effectively.

Polluted water is one of the main sources of preventable disease.

In many countries, thousands of people have

moved from the countryside to cities, where they live in shantytowns that often have no toilets or drinking water.

Open sewers run through vast networks of shacks of adobe, tin or wood that house tens of thousands of people. Children play in open dumps. Residents often drink polluted water and become sick with cholera, hepatitis, typhoid or diarrhea.

These diseases combine to make South America's health problems far more profound than the current epidemic.

For example, in Peru 1,300 people have died in the epidemic, but Health Ministry officials say about 15,000 children alone die every year of preventable diseases.

"Cholera has been blown out of proportion, without taking away the seriousness of it. ... There is a sense of disproportion — not that we shouldn't take precautions but the other problems should also be attacked," said Mayrides.

Children are the main victims of preventable diseases in South America, where the mortality rate for children under 5 is 74 per 1,000, according to UNICEF. That compares with 11 per 1,000 in Europe.

Poverty and a lack of education for women are the main factors contributing to the high mortality rates, said Aileen Gelbard, a U.S. demographer who works as a consultant on South American health issues.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America says a third of South

Americans live in poverty, and another 16 per cent in extreme poverty. Together those figures represent 183 million people — an increase of 70 million since 1970.

Ms. Gelbard says that in some cases health officials spot problems and get money for them, but the money is not spent effectively.

"What difference will it make to have the resources if there is not a strategy on how to manage and implement solutions to the problem," she said.

Mayrides said Bolivia has the highest child mortality rate in the hemisphere — 164 children out of 1,000 die before age 5 — and 51,000 children die every year of preventable diseases.

The government spends at least \$100 million annually on health programs but to little avail, officials say.

"Despite the help offered by many development agencies that operate in Bolivia and government policies that favour children, the situation remains critical," said Durval Martinez, the head of the foster parent's Altiplano Child Survival Programme. "The assistance is not effectively reaching children."

In some countries, health care has historically been overlooked, officials said.

Peru's health system was hurt by huge budget cuts last August, but it was in terrible shape before then.

Most South American countries face similar financial problems. In many cases, foreign debt payments often

leave little money for health care, Mayrides said.

In Colombia, health is fourth in Government spending, after education, debt servicing and the military.

Brazil's health care has unreliable and substandard, and the nation's economic problems are making it worse. Hospitals have been crippled for days at a time by strikes and when they do operate normally they are sorely understaffed.

"We are in the midst of an unprecedented health-care crisis that is causing the needless deaths of thousands of Brazilians," said Dr. Laerte Vaz Mello, president of Rio de Janeiro state's Regional Medical Council.

In Chile, nearly half of the nation's 13 million people live in poverty, and the lack of sewage treatment in Santiago was contributed to the spread of hepatitis, typhoid and cholera.

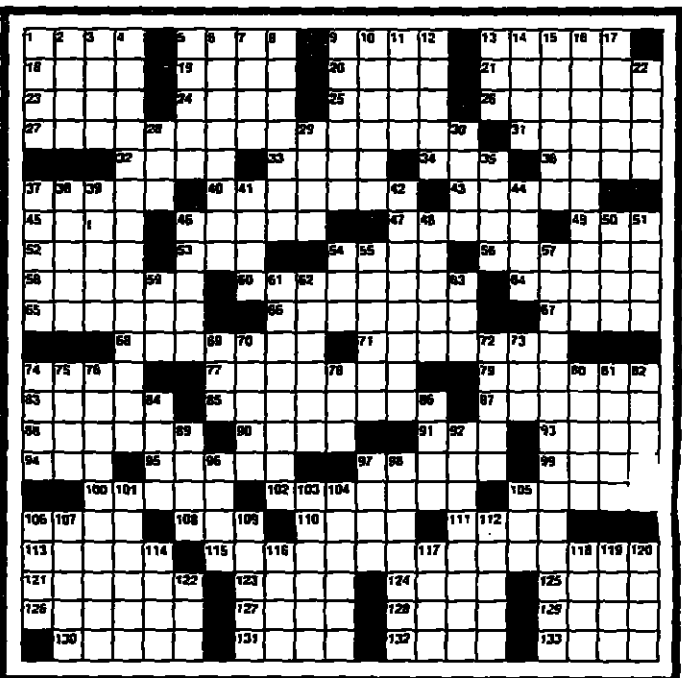
Venezuela, bordered by Colombia to the west and Brazil to the north, has escaped the cholera epidemic so far. In fact, says Dr. Consuelo Accia, director of the nation's Health Ministry, officials have become more vigilant and in the first three months of the year they reduced the infant mortality rate involving diarrhea.

Uruguay has one of the lowest child mortality rates in Latin America, 24.7 per 1,000. The cholera epidemic also has not struck that nation, to the south of Brazil, perhaps because all of Uruguay's urban residents have clean drinking water.

Weekend Crossword

LEAVINGS
By William Canine

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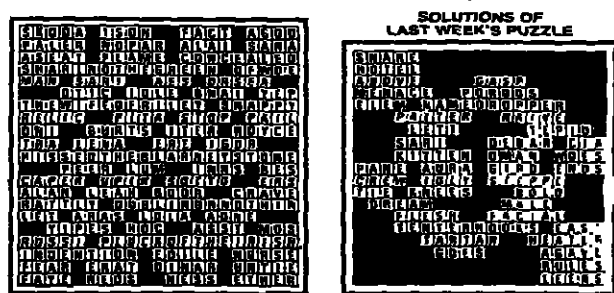


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Amiable bowling champ scores big win with eight straight spares.
2. Walking on the beach or delving in your attic, it's hard to believe what you see in trunks.
3. When work is done and the full night is high, faded clouds steal slowly across the sky.
4. Alpaca fur is finer than porcupine hair due to diet of alfalfa sprouts.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. EXRTN RUT BUOYANTLL E YWKLIC YWAAQY
WEMC XWERTM RG REXTRC GAITNG
BUT MOMJR JTTRUT XWOQBCE NEXR
2. 0 PRL POVSX: FRR VWIC ZLX FZVX
VJX KWAXM SXIRVX FCX VRFCA RT
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ESTIMATH TRULY QH QORDGIY IMEX
GRAIY.
4. BRABFZX CT TRY ST JKMULI FAMILY:
THIMHLY RZ IBSLUXTXLEI



Thousands of parents mobilise effort to stem process

(Continued from page 1)

to "bring their destruction through their own doing, may God encircle them, may God shame them and bring us victory over them."

Another controversial decision by Minister Akaileh was laying off 14 high-level employees at his ministry. While the council of ministers did approve the minister's decision, citing administrative reasons, sources contend that at least seven of those laid off were "productive" staff who were fired for no other reason than their "liberal thinking." One of them was the only woman to reach a high position at the ministry.

The indignation that followed the minister's decision to retire these employees and the subsequent approval of the measure by the Cabinet — although sources maintain that six Cabinet ministers refused to endorse the minister's decision — necessarily brought about closer scrutiny of their replacements.

Well-informed sources say that Dr. Akaileh, who has already made 10 appointments to fill the vacancies, has promoted employees who had served as assistants to the sacked officials in accordance with rules and regulations, but that there were a few controversial appointments to the vacancies. These claims could not be independently confirmed, however.

Other controversial measures by the minister have included banning male sports coaches from teaching sports to girls, limiting schools' freedom to close on Christian holidays (if they are not officially registered as Christian missionary schools), setting mid-term examinations in the week of the Christmas holidays and attempting to ban certain books deemed incompatible

with the Kingdom's "religious and moral ethics."

Lobbyists against the minister's directives and policies cite as another problem the minister's attitude towards women employees and female students.

According to ministry sources, in his first meeting with his staff, the minister said he did not care "to have women working in sensitive and important places at the ministry." The sources also maintain that he ordered the "cleansing of the ministry offices by segregating women from men."

In another related incident, the minister refused to shake hands with girl students as is customary for senior officials patronising graduation and prize-awarding ceremonies. In one such ceremony last month, the minister refused to shake hands with women winners of Crown Prince Awards, prompting male colleagues not to shake hands with him.

But two of the more important and controversial issues have been comments attributed to the minister allegedly criticising the Kingdom's 10-year "Plan of Action for Educational Reform (1989-1998)" and plans to ban or limit coeducation in schools around the country.

As of the beginning of 1990, the first phase of the ten-year plan of action, which is aimed at bringing about fundamental improvements covering the whole system of education in the Kingdom, was initiated at a total cost of \$250 million. The government plan which deals with the "hardware and the software components of education in Jordan," is funded by a combination of local and outside grants and loans and the total cost is expected to reach \$950 million in which the fore-

ign exchange component represents \$400 million.

Ministry sources have contended that the minister was against the project quoting him as saying that he "did not believe in it."

Other well-informed sources, however, quoted the minister as dismissing the allegation, saying he had never made such a remark.

In fact, two Arabic dailies quoted the minister on Tuesday as praising the education reform plan and saying that the ministry's cadres should be employed to apply its different parts.

The two dailies said the minister made his remarks on the plan at a meeting with the new heads of education departments that he had just appointed. He was quoted as saying that the cadres at the ministry should contribute to the application of the education development project, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, and follow up on the articles of the plan.

"This educational project is a scientific revolution in the field of education," Dr. Akaileh said, calling on the different department heads to continue work on progress of schools and "ensure that there is enough leeway for the spirit of innovation and freedom as well as to encourage criticism."

Special attention, the minister said, should be paid to "enlarging the foundation of debate before taking any decision, allocating responsibilities and enhancing the concept of preventive control."

Observers yesterday viewed the statement as significant, but they were divided on whether it was not intended to placate growing concern about the controversial moves and attitudes that have so far been

adopted by his ministry.

This concern was initially evident in some strong reactions from writers and columnists in the press; but, as days went by, the concern grew among Parliament members, individual citizens and other political parties who had been slow in expressing any opinion on the issue at all.

Over the past two weeks, growing lobbying and pressure from parents and concerned citizens has prompted deputies from independent and liberal leanings to move towards adopting a position on the controversy. "Parliamentaries," as one educationalist put it, "have failed to take a position or action on such important matters as this."

"But the picture is changing somewhat and we hope that our deputies at least will take an active role in the debate that is going to be crucial in the days ahead," he added. (please see adjacent story). The educationalist, who did not want to be identified by name, said that while the campaign against Dr. Akaileh's directives "is positive in the sense that it made citizens more aware of their rights and could create a citizens watchdog group on education. It would not be easy for the minister to change things fundamentally." The minister "would have to move mountains to reach his objectives," he said.

An example cited by this educationalist and shared by others to prove this point goes like this: "If the minister decides to limit coeducation he would be faced with the awesome task of building separate schools to incorporate students of the two sexes as well as introduce a gradual reduction in other schools where students are already settled or nearing the last years of their educa-

tion."

"The problem," according to the educationalist, "is that the minister has the full right by law to take a unilateral decision on this subject for now. He was told that this subject was very sensitive in the country and he would be better off dropping it for the time being." "What (the minister) will try to do this summer, if he wants to go ahead with segregation, is to limit the expansion of coeducation first," said the source. "He cannot do it in one full swoop." The sources maintained that while the minister is trying to apply his ideology through directives to schools, "he cannot do much. He can only charge the atmosphere."

The issue of coeducation is not only a point of contention between the minister and secular groups. Apparently it is also a controversial topic inside the Islamic movement itself. In a letter he sent to and published in Al Ra'i Arabic daily recently, Dr. Akaileh said that "soul of the Jordanian society was with segregation" but he added that that was his personal opinion and that his directives to schools "were not reflective of my opinion."

Spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, Ziad Abu Ghanimeh, however, told the Jordan Times in a recent interview that "Islam does not ban mixing between the sexes and one only has to look at the Haj (annual pilgrimage to Mecca) to realise this." Mr. Abu Ghanimeh defended the minister's directive to ban fathers from attending their daughters' sports activities saying the decision was limited only to one particular activity, but adding that Dr. Akaileh had not made any decisions to ban coeducation.

While several Muslim Brotherhood deputies have individually asked why there was

such a high-charged reaction to the minister's directives, most parents contacted by the Jordan Times said they felt offended by the minister's memo on fathers attending their daughters' sports activities because of the thinking that guides such a decision rather than the measure itself. Many parents especially resented the notion that fathers who feel pride in their daughters' performance at school would care to "eye little girls legs."

"What kind of human beings does he think we are?" one father asked. "Does he think that looking at legs can possibly be on our minds?" In his letter to Al Ra'i, the minister said his action was taken to save girls' embarrassment from being watched by men while practising sports.

A mother, who also did not wish to be identified, contended that the minister's decision is aimed at "eradicating the human link between a father and his daughter or the enjoyment of having both parents participate with their children in their development."

"Or is the minister telling us that all men in our society are sexually perverted or perturbed so as to be interested in little girls?" she asked. Many parents said that dedicating so much effort into highlighting the difference between girls and boys "builds a sexual problem among children who are supposed to be innocent at that age."

Others who also agreed with this complaint added that the problem started when the prime minister allowed the Muslim Brotherhood Movement the seat of minister of education. "Education is education. It cannot be used to further the

political aims of one political party or another," a father of four told the Jordan Times.

Most of those interviewed cited as the main problem that one single man would be given jurisdiction over the future of generations of youngsters and would be allowed to use that jurisdiction to further his party's aims.

"If we do not allow for the politicisation of the army which harbours over 60,000 adults, we certainly cannot allow for the politicisation of education which encompasses hundreds of thousands of children," a father, who is also a former minister, said.

According to 1988-89 statistics on schools, there are 805 secondary schools and 2465 basic education schools in the Kingdom. Over 930,000 students attend these schools every year.

One father said: "People are asking us why we are putting so much time into the minister's actions, and I ask them why the Muslim Brotherhood Movement asked for this minister in the first place, isn't it because they wanted to do something to further their own policies?"

Qassem Al Taweel, an educationalist for over 20 years, said that his experience in schools makes him believe that "coeducation is better."

"Students go to classes together during elementary school and in university why would they be segregated during these particular two years?" he said. "There are never problems in coeducational schools if teachers and parents know how to deal with the children," he said. "I taught in schools in the Gulf where they had girls on their own and boys on their own, and they definitely had problems," he pointed out.

Parliamentarians divided along party lines on education

(Continued from page 1)

Karim Kabariti, is more outspoken on the issue of education. "The minister of education ought to be concentrating his efforts on teaching school children how to be productive and useful citizens instead of wasting his time on taking controversial and wrong decisions," Mr. Kabariti says.

"In light of the lessons learned from the Gulf war, our children should be taught how to handle technology rather than mythology," the Agaba deputy continues. "Politicising education, along party or religious lines, in no way serves our development process, nor does it help the policy-objectives and aspirations of a centrist and tolerant society."

Deputy Kabariti insists that "controversial decisions by some cabinet ministers hinder the work of the government as a whole, especially at a time when every effort is needed to combat some real problems facing us, whether in the educational development process itself, in agriculture and water, or in unemployment and the economy."

A member of the left-wing "Democratic Bloc," Mr. Fakhri Kassar, dismisses the constitutional right of a government minister "to impose a law which interferes" with the rights of citizens. "The interference in the private affairs of people violates the rights of citizens in our society," he says. "Contrary to what some people think," Mr. Kassar says, "men and women are not like 'benzene and fire' when you put them in the same room together."

According to the Amman deputy who also writes a daily column for Al Ra'i newspaper, the issue could not have come to the forefront had it not had support in other sectors of the executive branch of government. "At a time like this it is ridiculous that we are debating such issues and I believe that it is only by consent of higher executive officials, to be exact the prime minister, that the minister of education was able to put such an issue on the agenda in the first place," he says.

Another leading member of the "Democratic Bloc," Mr. Faris Nabulsi, says he would vehemently oppose any attempt by the Ministry of Education to infringe on the rights of individuals to choose between a segregated and coeducational system of schooling. "We will fight any attempt by any government ministry to curtail individual rights. We will fight it all the way," Mr. Nabulsi, who represents Am-

man, says.

Balqa deputy Marwan Al Hmoud, who along with several other deputies, represents a loosely-linked nationalist group in the Lower House, says: "All those who wish to attend co-educational schools in the Kingdom should have the freedom to do so."

"As for those that want to go to segregated schools they should have that choice as well — that's what democracy is all about," says Mr. Hmoud, who served several times as minister of agriculture and of municipal affairs and the environment in the seventies and eighties.

Another "nationalist" deputy from Balqa, Dr. Fawzi Tuaimneh, agrees. "It is important to protect the independent character of our institutions, educational and otherwise," he says. "This has to be done in accordance with the National Charter, which does not allow our national institutions to be politicised," he adds.

"Institutions (like education) should not be politicised lest they serve some citizens but not others."

Another "nationalist" deputy, Dr. Husni Shihab (Irbid),

further cements the stand of the secular deputies in parliament on the issue of freedom of choice represented by "sex segregation in schools. "You cannot force segregation on people just as you cannot force co-education on the population; it should be a matter of individual choice," says Dr. Shihab.

For their part, Islamist deputies maintain that the majority of all Jordanians are Muslims, and as such believe in segregation and that all those who feel otherwise must bow to the will of the majority.

"That is democracy — the rule of the majority and the law of Islam," says Muslim Brotherhood deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber (Zarka).

Like Mr. Jaber, all Muslim Brotherhood deputies who spoke to the Jordan Times maintain that Islamic scriptures clearly forbid the mixing of sexes in an educational environment.

The Islamist deputies, independent Islamists included, point out that co-education was an importation from western cultures, with all their "negative connotations." High divorce rates, rape and murder

as well as other aspects of a corrupt society are directly related to co-education in western schools, those deputies believe.

"We have seen the break-up of family life and the health of populations threatened by the outbreak of sexually-related diseases and very provocative mixing of sexes from a very early age," says deputy Humam Saeed (Amman).

"Prostitution, child prostitution, rape and venereal diseases hardly exist in our societies. Why should we encourage such evils by following the very ways of the West?" asks Dr. Saeed.

According to another Muslim Brotherhood deputy, Dr. Ali Hawamdeh, "the morality of Jordanians has fallen, and this can be attributed to mixing between the sexes."

"It is a well known fact," Dr. Hawamdeh maintains, "that putting men and women in the same room is like mixing 'benzene and fire.'" The Amman deputy cites the employment of female secretaries as the main reason for most divorces taking place in the country.

Independent Islamist and member of the Dar Al Quran

group, Sheikh Yacoub Qarash, says that "while 95 per cent of all Jordanians oppose co-education and 5 per cent tolerate it, none is actually calling" for co-education. "Therefore, there should be no opposition to moves forbidding co-education by the Jordanian people," he says.

Former minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Islamist deputy Sheikh Ali Fakher (Amman) says: "Regardless of what the majority thinks on this issue, co-education violates Islamic law and should thus be illegalised."

Muslim Brotherhood deputy Daoud Kojak (Amman) argues that "if the majority of people were against co-education and co-education was allowed for a minority, then dictatorship of a minority over the majority would take place."

In the Jordan Times survey, some members of the Upper House (Senate) also commented on the controversy. Most of the 40-members of the House who are directly appointed by the King, are liberal establishment figures.

Senator Juma Hamad, who is independent but has close links to the Islamists, says that

he sees no reason to criticise Ministry of Education moves until they are proven to be either successful or otherwise. "I think we should see how the new policies work and then judge them," he says, adding that he does not view the latest moves as an indicator of increased politicisation of the education system. "I see no sign of politicisation of the education system," Senator Hamad maintains.

Senator Omar Nabulsi rejects the education minister's recent measures as "unconstitutional" and a clear transgression of the personal freedoms of Jordanians.

"The minister, constitutionally, is an executor of policies," Mr. Nabulsi, who is a prominent lawyer, points out. "These policies have to be approved through consensus and approval of the cabinet and the legislative authority."

"The major question is whether or not the cabinet approves of the measures in question and whether he (the minister) has the right under the constitution to formulate such policies," Mr. Nabulsi says. "I want to ask the cabinet

and the prime minister whether they have approved the policies. If they have not, then this is a dereliction of their duties," Mr. Nabulsi, who is a former minister, adds.

"If they declare that they do approve of these policies then we will object in the strongest terms because it is an imposition of a certain ideology on society which will create a negative and reactionary response," Senator Nabulsi declares.

Insisting that the education policy should be executed in isolation of political aims of one party or another, he says that the education policy should be "enlightened, liberal and secular."

Other deputies and senators were either not available for comment or they simply preferred not to go on the record for now. Mafrag deputy Mohammad Abu 'Alain who belongs to a "Liberal Bloc" which is a breakaway faction of the "National Bloc" told the Jordan Times that he did not want to give his opinion on the issue to the press. "I will be more than happy to express my opinion on this and other subjects but only on the parliament floor," he says.

Syria, Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

brotherhood, cooperation and coordination was "imposed by one side on the other like any accord between two unequal states."

He also charged that the pact violates the national covenant, an unwritten Muslim-Christian accord reached in 1943 when France agreed to grant Lebanon independence.

Under the covenant the Muslims, then a minority, dropped their demand for merger with Syria and France ended some of the privileges the Christians enjoyed. Muslims, however, now make up 55 per cent of the 4 million population.

Sources close to Steir said the patriarch planned to meet with the U.S. and French ambassadors, Ryan Crocker and Rene Aia to explain Christian fears.

The treaty calls for tight coordination and cooperation between Syria and Lebanon in the fields of security, foreign policy, economy, trade and culture.

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon with 40,000 troops deployed in the country under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate.

Christians fear that the Syrians will stay in Lebanon in the absence of any reference in the treaty to the withdrawal of the troops.

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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 21/5/91	Tokyo Close Date: 22/5/91
Sterling Pound	1.7375	1.7335
Deutsche Mark	1.7120	1.7160
Swiss Franc	1.4482	1.4522
French Franc	5.8145	5.8170
Japanese Yen	137.30	137.45
European Currency Unit	1.1985	1.1985

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.81	5.93	6.06	6.43
Sterling Pound	11.81	11.37	11.12	11.00
Deutsche Mark	11.75	8.87	9.00	9.06
Swiss Franc	7.87	8.06	8.00	7.97
French Franc	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.06
Japanese Yen	7.81	7.71	7.56	7.40
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.43	9.53	9.43

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	357.05	6.65	Silver	4.07	.087

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 22/5/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.680	.682
Sterling Pound	1.1781	1.1840
Deutsche Mark	.3961	.3981
Swiss Franc	.4683	.4706
French Franc	.1187	.1175
Japanese Yen	.4947	.4972
Dutch Guilder	.3516	.3534
Swedish Krona	.1105	.1111
Italian Lira	.0534	.0537
Belgian Franc	.01928	.01938

Other Currencies

Date: 22/5/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7350	1.7450
Lebanese Lira	.074	.076
Saudi Riyal	.1810	.1818
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1829	.1840
Egyptian Pound	.1950	.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7200	1.7350
UAE Dirham	.1829	.1840
Greek Drachma	.3550	.3650
Cypriot Pound	1.4250	1.4400

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	20/5/91 Close	21/5/91 Close
All-Share	114.49	113.95
Banking Sector	110.94	110.76
Insurance Sector	112.56	112.41
Industry Sector	118.45	117.41
Services Sector	127.91	126.53

Demand for gold exceeds supply

LONDON (R) — Gold mining hit record levels in 1990 but demand exceeded supply for the third successive year, research firm Gold Fields Mineral Services (GFMS) has said.

Its annual review said Western gold output rose by three per cent to 1,734 tonnes, the lowest annual increase since 1981. Demand was four per cent higher at 2,380 tonnes.

"However, producer forward selling, Middle East disposals and sales from the Communist Bloc resulted in the average price rising only marginally to \$384 an ounce," it said.

The 1989 average was \$381. GFMS, jointly owned by three mining groups, said demand for gold increased because of buoyant conditions in the first half year with rising world prosperity and lower gold prices.

Sales from the Communist Bloc totalled 380 tonnes in 1990, up from 296 tonnes in 1989. Soviet sales were estimated to have increased marginally to 285 tonnes.

GFMS said the Soviet Union was likely to maintain its high sales in 1991 because of the economic crisis in the country.

"However, although the actual level of Soviet sales to the West may remain high, the quantity sold is unlikely to increase dramatically," it said.

Forward gold sales rose sharply to 240 tonnes from 65 tonnes in 1989, while sales of gold scrap jumped to 441 tonnes from 324.

Production is Brazil slumped by 22 per cent to 78 tonnes. Jewellery fabrication absorbed 1,986 tonnes of gold, up six per cent from 1,874 tonnes in 1989. Industrial use of gold grew to 258 tonnes last year.

Sales of gold coins fell from 135 to 117 tonnes. Demand in the Far East weakened, although there was reasonable interest in Europe and North America, the research firm added.

Egypt seeks higher oil output, less consumption

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's new oil minister, Hamdi Ali Al Banbi, said Wednesday his mandate from the president was to increase production capacity and slash domestic consumption.

"The next phase will focus on drilling operations in search for oil in Egypt's Western Desert and the southern governorates," Banbi told the national news agency MENA.

President Hosni Mubarak Monday appointed Banbi, a senior oil industry executive, to replace veteran oil and mineral wealth minister Abdul Hadi Kandael.

"President Mubarak's directives concentrate mainly on increasing production and rationalising consumption to help bolster the national economy," Banbi said.

Cairo will soon invite international companies to bid for new concessions for oil and gas drilling in the Red Sea area as part of its policy to encourage new investments, he added.

Egypt is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) but it has cooperated in the past with the 13-member group to boost world prices and curb output.

It currently produces around 900,000 barrels per day, about half of which is consumed domestically.

Earlier this month, the government sharply raised domestic energy prices saying they were much lower than world prices. The increases would also help cut consumption, it said.

Apple Computer to restructure

CUPERTINO, California (R) — Apple Computer Inc., faced with a sluggish personal computer market, has said it will cut its work force by 10 per cent or about 1,600 employees and restructure operations.

The company, which has about 15,600 workers, said the job cuts will be made through layoffs and attrition.

A major innovator and pioneer in the personal computer field, Apple has lost sales in recent years to competitors in the United States, Japan and other nations.

"Over the past year, Apple changed its business strategy from one which emphasised high-growth margins to one which sought much higher market share," Apple said in a statement.

But Apple Chairman John Sculley said that while the programme to boost sales was working, the company "must accelerate our expense reduction process at this time."

The increasingly competitive personal computer market has prompted a number of computer-makers to slash prices recently.

S. Arabia, Kuwait may resume oil production from neutral zone soon

RIYADH (R) — Offshore oil production from the neutral zone spanning the Saudi Arabian-Kuwaiti border where fierce fighting raged during the Gulf war may resume in weeks, oil company officials say.

Japan's Arabian Oil Co. (AOC), which holds a Saudi government concession to operate the offshore fields is waiting to be told by Riyadh that the waters off Khafji are free from mines.

"We can resume production very soon," AOC senior coordinator for management liaison Yoshiaki Yoshida said Tuesday.

Given the go-ahead AOC could probably drive production up from initially low levels to a maximum 300,000 barrels per day (b/d) although pre-war production was more like 250,000 b/d.

Yoshida told Reuters by telephone from field headquarters at Khafji that the company was expecting assurances that the sea around the platforms and in channels used by tankers loading at the Khafji export terminal were safe.

Khafji was the site of the first battle in the Gulf war late last January and was briefly taken by Iraqi troops. AOC's facilities emerged relatively unharmed — one septic tank was destroyed and some administration buildings were hit by shells.

Onshore, where 130,000 b/d were produced in pre-war days, it is a different story.

Getty Oil Co. holds the concession from Riyadh, and has to put out oil well fires and staunch leaks before it can resume production from Wafra, Umm Gudair, and Twaris fields.

"There are 12 or 30 fires and quite a few leaking wells. They've also got to clear the ordnance and explosives left behind by the Iraqis," said Ed Herman at Getty's Riyadh office, who recently visited the area.

"Wafra is still pretty heavily mined," Herman said.

Another oil industry source in Riyadh said gathering centres, into which oil was piped from the wells and oil and gas separated before being pumped onto refineries, had been blown up by the Iraqis.

Conditions in onshore areas operated by the Kuwait Oil Co. (KOC) were similar, the source added.

It will probably be four to six months before there is any production," Herman said.

Hopefully by that time Getty will have found a route by which it can pipe its oil to an export terminal.

The 70,000 b/d refinery at Mina Al Zoor, known as Mina Saud in Saudi Arabia although it is a few miles into Kuwaiti territory, is no longer an option.

"Mine Al Zoor was pretty well destroyed," Herman said.

Alternatives could be piping the oil north to KOC facilities further up the coast or south to the AOC terminal at Khafji.

The Getty gathering centres were hooked up to Kuwaiti facilities other than Mina Al Zoor, but the pipelines suffered some damage as Iraqi tanks rolled over them.

Revenues from neutral zone production are split 50-50 between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan sets higher GDP goal

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan has set a higher economic growth target for the financial year beginning in July which it said would be marked by an exercise in self-reliance.

The policy-making National Economic Council (NEC) approved the gross domestic product target of 6.5 per cent for 1991/92, up from an estimated 5.5 per cent in 1990/91. Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz said a news conference.

He said the meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, approved a higher annual development programme for 1991/92 compared with one of 63 billion rupees (\$2.7 billion) in 1990/91.

But Aziz declined to give figures for the next programme before Sharif's six-month-old government presents its first budget to parliament's lower house on May 30.

"Reducing borrowings and deficit will be the major strategy of our budget," he said.

Sharif, who took office last November, inherited a budget for 1990/91 formulated by the government of prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

Bonn to tie development aid to defence spending

BONN (R) — Germany plans to attach conditions to its development aid obliging recipient nations to curb defence spending, undertake political reforms and respect human rights, Economic Cooperation Minister Carl-Dieter Spranger said.

In an interview with the Passauer Neue Presse newspaper published Tuesday, he said his ministry was preparing a list of criteria for future aid which would pay attention to excessive arms spending.

"In providing development aid, we must ensure that it is not used indirectly for defence spending by enabling countries to save money on social spending, for example, which they then put into defence," Spranger said.

He said Germany would like into account factors such as the security situation of recipient nations and the share of national income devoted to military expenditure.

He said the was confident that Germany's Western partners would adjust their aid policies along similar lines.

Germany has pledged to maintain development aid despite the high costs of German unification last October.

A month later, Bonn scrapped all of former East Germany's aid to hardline communist Cuba, citing human rights abuses and economic mismanagement.

Spranger's ministry has a 1991 budget of 7.76 billion marks (\$4.5 billion).

El Salvador joins GATT

GENEVA (AP) — El Salvador Wednesday became the latest country to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which sets rules for world commerce and provides a framework for trade liberalisation talks.

El Salvador is the 102nd nation to join GATT, whose administration is based in Geneva.

The GATT secretariat said membership took effect 30 days after it received formal confirmation that the Salvadoran parliament ratified the country's agreement to join.

The latest round of GATT trade liberalisation talks were suspended in December because of disagreements between the European Community (EC) and world food exporters.

Kremlin lifts 'presidential tax'

MOSCOW (R) — The Kremlin lifted an unpopular five per cent sales tax on basic food items and consumer goods Tuesday as part of last month's deal with restive republics to end labour unrest.

The Soviet Council of Ministers said the so-called "presidential tax," on items ranging from meat to eggs, milk and children's clothing, would be lifted immediately.

The statement, issued by the official TASS news agency, said the decision was made "to protect the population."

President Mikhail Gorbachev signed a landmark declaration with nine republican leaders last month, calling for joint efforts to save the country from social and economic collapse.

At the meeting, rebellious republican leaders, including Gorbachev's arch-rival Boris Yeltsin, agreed to call for an end to a two-month strike which paralysed the coal industry. They also agreed to sign a union treaty keeping the country intact.

Gorbachev made several concessions in return, including easing steep price rises of up to 250 per cent which went into effect on April 2. He also agreed to review tax policy.

The decision to lift the five per cent sales tax is a signal that the Soviet government intends to honour its agreement with the republics — even if it means paying a high price.

The sales tax was introduced Jan.

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Rumours of bad company results and a collapse in futures prices wiped out earlier gains. The Nikkei average closed down 82.55 points or 0.32 per cent at 25,398.66.

SYDNEY — Early foreign buying of leading stocks drove shares higher but gains were reduced by local selling. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 5.4 points at 1,541.4.

HONG KONG — Shares closed slightly easier as a nervous market awaited the outcome of Sino-British talks in Beijing on the future of a second airport for Hong Kong. The Blue Chip Hang Seng Index closed at 3,826.62, 3.26 points down.

SINGAPORE — Demand for Malaysian stocks on the over-the-counter market boosted prices over a broad front. The Blue Chip Straits Times Industrial Index rose 7.05 points to 1,525.03.

BOMBAY — The stock exchange was ordered closed after the assassination of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. A spokesman said he did not yet know when it would reopen.

FRANKFURT — Buoyant buying from foreign and domestic investors propelled German shares 1.9 per cent higher to their highest closing level in nine months. The 30-share Dax Index ended at 1,647.69, up 30.29 points from Tuesday.

ZURICH — Wall Street's overnight gain and Frankfurt's firmer close underpinned sentiment and Swiss Shares ended higher. The SPI Index rose 8.6 points to 1,097.1.

PARIS — Shares changed direction in afternoon trading, depressed by Wall Street's dip, to close slightly down. The CAC-40 index ended 1.96 points lower at 1,831.13.

LONDON — The FTSE Index ended a quiet session around the day's lows, 16.8 points down at 2,465.9.

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks remained modestly pressured in quiet trading with the focus to the holiday period ahead. The Dow Jones Industrial average traded around Tuesday's close at 2,905.

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Gandhi assassination shakes the world

LONDON (AP) — World leaders shaken by the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India are expressing concern for the resilience of democracy in India.

Some worried that Gandhi's death in a bomb blast Tuesday could portend instability and greater bloodshed.

"A stern trial of character and will may now face India, her leaders and her people," U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Tuesday in a message to Gandhi's widow Sonia. "They will have the goodwill of the entire international community in facing this challenge."

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said his country was "filled with indignation over this monstrous crime." Gorbachev called Gandhi a "great personal friend" in a separate message to Sonia Gandhi. Gorbachev has visited India twice since assuming power in 1985.

U.S. President George Bush denounced the killing as "appalling," and the House of Representatives observed a moment of silence. "I don't know what the world's coming to," Bush said.

British Prime Minister John Major described Gandhi as "a very brave man" and said that despite the loss, he remained optimistic about India's future. "Democracy is a very secure plant and I have no doubt it will survive."

The newly named French Premier Edith Cresson called the assassination a "very great misfortune for democracy."

Vice President Dan Quayle said in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Wednesday that he will fly to India to represent the United States at Gandhi's funeral. The Indian politician is to be cremated on Friday.

President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines expressed "profound sadness" at Gandhi's death. Aquino's husband Benigno was assassinated in 1983 when he attempted to return to oppose then President Ferdinand Marcos.

In Pakistan, India's neighbour and erstwhile enemy, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said early Wednesday that he was stunned by Gandhi's death and would attend the funeral.

"We are saddened by the passing away, under such tragic circumstances, of an important and distinguished political leader of our region," Sharif said.

Traditionally uneasy neighbours, Pakistan and India have

three times gone to war since 1947 when the subcontinent was divided between Hindu India and a majority Muslim Pakistan. But relations improved during Gandhi's tenure.

Economist John Kenneth Galbraith, U.S. ambassador to India during President John F. Kennedy's administration, said the assassination marked the end of a political dynasty.

He was a man of charm, good humour, and while he came reluctantly into politics, he emerged as a very skilful politician," Galbraith said Tuesday from his office at Harvard University.

Gandhi 46, was the son of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984.

His grandfather was Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, and his grandfather, Motilal Nehru, was a major figure in the Indian independence movement.

"The great-grandfather, grandfather, mother and now Rajiv were the dynasty," Galbraith said. "At least for the short run, this is the end."

Among Gandhi's severest critics, his death was viewed as repayment for wrong policies.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of Pakistan said India had lost "a distinguished leader with a long record of service to his nation."

"Pakistan condemns in the strongest terms of acts of terrorism wherever they may take place," he said in a statement.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger described the assassination as a blow to democracy.

"It's a tragedy for India and a tragedy for democracy everywhere that a leader such as Rajiv Gandhi should be struck down in the final stages of an election campaign," he said.

Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson compared Gandhi's death to the assassination of other powerful politicians.

"Martin Luther King, John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Olof Palme. There are many politicians who have paid a high price for their political work," he said.

The Dutch government said Gandhi had been an inspirational leader. "Feelings of deep sympathy go out to the wife and children of Rajiv Gandhi and to all the people of India," its statement said.

Gandhi's Italian wife Sonia, who was not with him when he was killed, comes from the small town of Orbassano, near Turin.

At the family home, her elderly aunt Dorina Maino told Italian



Rajiv Gandhi

News Agency (ANSA): "What a tragedy — they'd already killed his mother and we always feared the same would happen to Rajiv."

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expressed deep regret over Gandhi's assassination.

"It is very regrettable. While expressing our condolences, we also pray from the bottoms of our hearts for the repose of his soul," Kaifu said.

"He was a great man who worked to improve Japan-India relations."

Nepali leaders lamented the assassination of Gandhi and praised his support for their successful fight for democracy in the Himalayan kingdom.

"Rajiv Gandhi made a great contribution towards the democratic movement of Nepal," said Girija Prasad Koirala, tipped to be Nepal's next prime minister after his Nepali Congress Party won the kingdom's first free polls in three decades.

"Nepal can never forget that," Koirala said. His party cancelled an election victory rally in the capital Wednesday in mourning for Gandhi.

Sri Lankan President Rana-singhe Premadasa and opposition leaders also condemned the killing and a Tamil group denied responsibility for the assassination.

Opposition politicians said minority Tamils in Sri Lanka had lost a man who could have helped solve the island's ethnic unrest. Premadasa said in a statement read over state radio: His assassination is a brutal and barbaric act. All Sri Lankans join with me in condemning this horrible and cowardly act.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) spokesman in London denied his group was involved in Gandhi's death. "I

am certain that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are not at all connected with this assassination," spokesman Anton Rajah said.

Norway's Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland condemned the killers saying they would be on the losing side in a worldwide battle for democracy.

"India, the world's biggest democracy, has lost a great leader, and for the second time in a decade the Gandhi family has been hit by blind terror," Brundtland said.

"But the killer will be on the losing side in the battle for the development of democracy and political justice in all nations," she told Norway's NTB news agency.

Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, arriving in Hong Kong for a four-day visit on Wednesday, said Gandhi was a colleague and friend who would be deeply missed.

"He was a wonderful colleague and friend, and we will miss him very deeply," he told reporters. Mulroney said he had sent a message of condolence to Gandhi's widow and family.

Iran on Wednesday expressed regret over the killing. Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Sarzadi, quoted by the Iranian News Agency (IRNA), said Iran hoped India would successfully weather the crisis caused by the "shocking" assassination.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and Hazel Hawke, wife of Prime Minister Bob Hawke, will fly to India Thursday to attend the funeral.

Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens appealed to Indians not to let the murder stop their efforts to live in harmony, state radio said on Wednesday.

He said he had learned with consternation about the "horrible assassination."

A spokesman for Martens said all Indian forces working for peace should remember the example of Gandhi and his late mother Indira Gandhi and pursue attempts to unite all communities, religious and ethnic groups.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mark Eyskens told Belga News Agency the assassination was a base and scandalous blow to democracy.

Egypt said Wednesday it hoped the assassination would not dent India's democracy.

"We regret this tragic incident and consider it a big loss," said Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali.

"Egypt hopes that his death will not affect India's democratic

march," he added.

Turkish President Turgut Ozal has expressed deep sorrow over the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"Our sorrow at the loss of this esteemed statesman who has contributed to the development of relations between Turkey and India and who has served his country... is deep," President Turgut Ozal said in a statement issued late Tuesday.

"On behalf of myself and the Turkish nation I extend condolences to the people of India and to the Gandhi family," he said, according to the semi-official Anatolian News Agency.

African National Congress (ANC) Deputy President Nelson Mandela was horrified at the assassination of Gandhi and sent a message of condolence to the bereaved family on Wednesday, the ANC said.

"Mandela... received the tragic news of the assassination with a profound sense of horror," an ANC statement said.

"The Gandhi family, the Congress Party of India and the Indian people as a whole have suffered an irreparable loss in the untimely death of this promising statesman."

"Our heartfelt sympathies and thoughts are with the people of India in this hour of sorrow," the statement said.

The Dalai Lama condemned the assassination and urged India to remain calm.

"I am deeply concerned over the degeneration of the state of affairs in this country," said Tibet's spiritual leader who has lived in exile in India since 1959.

"The assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and others recently are a tragic reminder of this," he said in a statement issued by his New Delhi office.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus Wednesday called the assassination a tragic setback to democracy not only in his country but also in the world.

Canada's External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall said, "I express the profound hope of the prime minister and of this government that it will not be allowed to interfere with the democratic process at this very sensitive time during this very important election."

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard expressed hope the attack was not "a signal of a chain of violence. All we can hope for is that the Indians maintain reason" and that the elections "continue in relative calm."



Jawaharlal Nehru



Indira Gandhi

Nehru dynasty grip on power ends with Rajiv Gandhi's death

NEW DELHI (R) — The Nehru dynasty's hold on power in India is over.

The family, hampered by tragedy in later years, produced Congress Party prime ministers who ruled for 38 of India's 44 years of independence.

But the cord tying it to supreme office in the world's biggest democracy effectively snapped Tuesday night when Rajiv Gandhi was blown up by a bomb in Tamil Nadu state in the south.

Many doubt Congress can survive without a member of the Nehru dynasty at its head and will break apart without Rajiv Gandhi.

Only Gandhi's son Rahul, who sometimes travelled to campaign meetings, would be likely to take on the family's political role. But he is only 17.

The dynasty was often beset by controversy. Rajiv's mother Indira Gandhi, the daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, who was prime minister from independence in 1947 until his death in 1964, imposed a state of emergency with near-dictatorial power in 1975.

When she called elections two years later, Congress was swept out of power for the first time since independence from Britain in 1947 and she lost her own parliamentary seat.

Rajiv Gandhi led Congress to defeat in November, 1989, amid charges of corruption and incompetence.

But the dynasty was never less than a major factor in Indian politics.

Rajiv was campaigning hard to recover power when he was killed. Opinion polls suggested Congress would be the biggest party after polling ended Sunday, but without a parliamentary majority.

Rajiv was the non-political Gandhi, happy as an airline pilot until his younger brother Sanjay was killed when his light aircraft crashed in Delhi while he was performing aerobatics.

His mother, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, pressed him to take on Sanjay's high-profile, some said dominating, role in the Congress Party that led India to independence and has been India's major political party ever since.

Rajiv took over as prime minister hours after Indira was killed by Sikh bodyguards in October, 1984.

They killed her in revenge four months after she ordered the army into Amritsar's Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, in an operation to root out Sikh separatists using it as a headquarters.

About 1,000 people, many of them pilgrims, were killed and some of the holiest shrines in the big complex damaged badly.

Her assassination provoked anti-Sikh riots in Delhi in which some 3,000 Sikhs were hacked, beaten and burned to death.

There were fears similar eruptions could occur after Rajiv's assassination, and police in Delhi and some neighbouring states were immediately put on high alert.

Nehru, a British-educated lawyer with an impeccably English gentleman style, was the main creator of the policies only now slowly beginning to change.

He emphasised state control of basic industries and heavy protection against foreign competition to create a self-sufficient economy aimed at raising the living standards of the mass of Indian poor.

While none of his political opponents would have wished to see Rajiv Gandhi assassinated, many of them had long fought for an end of the Nehru dynasty's grip on power.

Many senior leaders quit Congress, some because their route to the top was blocked by a Gandhi.

Vishwanath Pratap Singh, once Gandhi's finance and defence minister, left in 1987 after colleagues frustrated a drive against all-pervasive corruption.

Singh put together a National Front Alliance of small parties that drove Gandhi from power in the last elections, chiefly on a platform of corruption charges against Gandhi and Congress, which Gandhi vehemently denied.

Singh lost power last November and is now fighting to regain it. He lost some of his party but gained an alliance with India's two main Communist parties.

Both wanted a Congress defeat that would embarrass Gandhi and persuade powerful regional party bosses to topple him.

Mrs. Mandela, women arrested in political prisoners' protest

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police arrested Winnie Mandela and the leadership of the African National Congress (ANC) Women's League Wednesday during a demonstration in support of political prisoners.

Mandela, 56, wife of ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela, was charged with obstructing traffic and resisting arrest after the women tried to chain off a main street in central Johannesburg, police said.

They were detained at John Vorster Square Police Headquarters pending a court appearance.

Mrs. Mandela is already on bail awaiting her appeal against a six-year prison sentence for kidnapping and complicity in an assault in Johannesburg's Soweto township two years ago.

Nelson Mandela arrived at Johannesburg Wednesday for a three-day visit to the city that has been the focus of a direct-elected executive president — a symptom of a gradual erosion of central Kremlin power unthinkable before Gorbachev began his perestroika reforms in 1985.

Russia would become the second Soviet republic with a directly-elected executive president — a symptom of a gradual erosion of central Kremlin power unthinkable before Gorbachev began his perestroika reforms in 1985.

Now Gorbachev's own hold on government is challenged by the nationalist tendency he unwittingly spawned.

Rajiv Gandhi was a leader for the new generation of leadership.

S. Korean sets himself on fire in anti-Roh protest

SEOUL (AP) — A construction worker set himself on fire and jumped from the roof of a hospital morgue Wednesday in the ninth self-immolation protest against the government of President Roh Tae-Woo.

Witnesses said Chung Sang-Sun, 26, was taken to the adjacent Chonnam University Hospital in the southern city of Kwangju in critical condition. Witnesses said he kept saying "down with Roh Tae-Woo" as he was being carried to the emergency room.

Chung was from Busong, a township outside Kwangju, and apparently was acquainted with a high school student who remained in critical condition after

a similar self-immolation protest. Six people have died among the nine, most of them students, who have doused themselves with paint thinner and set themselves ablaze to protest the fatal beating of a student demonstrator by police.

Also Wednesday, the prime minister resigned to take responsibility for more than a month of violent nationwide protests that have plunged Roh's government into its most serious political crisis.

The resignation of Prime Minister Roh Jae-Bong paves the way for Roh to reshuffle the cabinet and initiate political and economic reforms to try to defuse

the unrest that followed the fatal beating. A replacement was not named immediately.

Presidential sources said a cabinet reshuffle was likely and news reports said amnesty for some political prisoners was expected by week's end as the governing Democratic Liberal Party struggled to come to grips with the crisis.

Prosecutors in Kwangju said Wednesday they would seek arrest warrants for five of 11 riot troops implicated in the clubbing of a 22-year-old anti-government protester Monday.

The protester, Kwon Chang-Soo, remained in critical condition in a Kwangju hospital with brain injuries. Dissidents and students warned of a new wave of protests if he died.

After Roh's resignation, Kim Dae-Jung, head of the main opposition New Democratic Party, said by telephone, "the real question is not the resignation, but who will replace him."

"The people want reform, and they don't want to be disappointed," Kim said.

President Roh has made broad democratic reform since taking office in 1988, but dissidents, students and opposition leaders say he has backtracked in the past year.

House rejects Bush's \$291b military budget

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives has rejected President George Bush's \$291-billion military budget that would pay for four new B-2 Stealth bombers and spend billions of dollars on the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

By a vote of 287-127, the lower house of Congress refused to scrap the rival fiscal 1992 package drawn up by the House Armed Services Committee. Republicans had sought to replace it with Bush's blueprint. Bush is a Republican.

The full House is expected to give final approval to the committee's budget, which also calls for spending \$291 billion in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, Wednesday.

Bush has threatened to veto the military budget bill if Congress does not fully fund the B-2 Stealth bomber and the SDI, known as Star Wars.

Despite the veto threat, the House Monday preserved the committee's deep cuts in the proposed budget for SDI and theatre missile defences, reducing the programmes from \$3.2 billion to about \$3.5 billion.

The committee package also terminates the B-2 bomber at 15 planes and funds the F-14 D jet fighter and V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft — two programmes Bush has tried to kill.

Republicans attacked the 1992 budget drawn up by the committee for making deep cuts in

strategic weapons while restoring funds for projects in lawmakers' districts.

As the House turned aside the Republican effort to restore Bush's budget plan, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney was telling a Senate panel that the House bill falls short on the issues of B-2, SDI and levels of National Guard and reserves. Cheney, in arguing for SDI, the so-called Star Wars plan against nuclear missile attack, said the Gulf war and the use of Scud missiles was "a small taste of what's in store for us down the road."

The House's agenda Tuesday also included votes on a handful of amendments calling on U.S. allies to shoulder a greater share of the defence burden.

The U.S. House of Representatives called for a reduction of U.S. troops in Europe by 150,000 by 1995, with some congressmen saying Europe had to contribute more to its own defence.

But the House rejected more extreme proposals to aggressively cut U.S. troop numbers worldwide, including withdrawal of 14,000 from S. Korea in two years.

It approved by a 260 to 163 vote a non-binding "sense of Congress" amendment that also asks that troops in the United States be ready to move rapidly into combat if necessary in Europe or anywhere else in the world.

U.N. cites economic, political inequality in Asia

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Inequality is one of the most striking features of Asia — between nations, between rich and poor and between men and women, according to a U.N. report released Wednesday.

The U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) report, which seeks to rank 160 countries by their success in education and health care as well as economic progress, finds Japan a world leader.

Hong Kong ranks 25, South Korea 35, Singapore 37 and Malaysia 52 — countries which the report says have more in common with major industrial nations than most developing countries.

But the continent as a whole has 700 million people who live in

poverty with the great majority of them in India and Bangladesh.

Only about half the Asian population has access to both safe water and sanitation and there is marked discrimination against women, it said.

Female literacy rates are only 73 per cent of those for men, a figure that has not changed in the past 15 years.

"Female life expectancy is low, with a substantial number of women who would have lived if they had been born elsewhere," the report said.

The report on human development attempts to challenge the World Bank's annual development survey, which concentrates on economic wealth as a barometer of success.

Instead, the UNDP report ranks nations according to distribution of income, literacy rates, educational opportunities, infant mortality and other health factors as well as wealth.

Some East Asian countries have achieved fairly rapid reduction in infant mortality to about five per cent, including China, Singapore and Hong Kong.

About 85 per cent of the region's one-year-old children are immunised, a higher proportion than the average for industrial countries, it said.

But in South Asia, all countries except Sri Lanka fall into the category of low human development, the report said.

Pakistan, which ranks 120 compared with 123 for India and 82

for China and 75 for Sri Lanka, is singled out in the survey, whose principal author is Dr. Mahbub Ul Haq, a former Pakistani finance minister.

Haq describes his country as having an impressive annual economic growth rate of about six per cent, which it failed to translate into a human development programme.

Its average life expectancy is below most Asian nations and adult literacy of 31 per cent is among the world's lowest.

Corruption also took its toll in Pakistan with illegitimate private gain from public positions estimated at four per cent of the gross national product, the report said.